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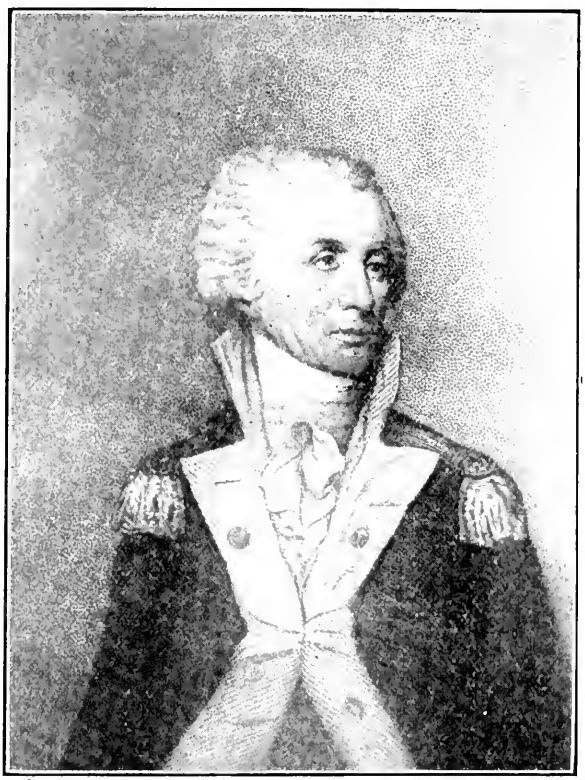
REPORT

OF THE

Commission Appointed by the General Assembly of South Carolina to Mark the Grave of GEN. THOMAS SUMTER

Columbia, S. C.
Gonzales and Bryan, State Printers
1908



GENERAL THOMAS SUMTER
From an original portrait by Charles W. Peale

REPORT

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Commission Appointed by the General Assembly of South Carolina to Mark the Grave of GEN. THOMAS SUMTER

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AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A MONUMENT TO MARK THE GRAVE OF GEN. THOMAS SUMTER.

Section 1. *Be it enacted* by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, That the sum of one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) be appropriated to be used alone or in connection with any sum that may be raised by voluntary contribution to erect a suitable monument or mark to the grave of General Thomas Sumter.

Section 2. That a Commission consisting of Wm. A. Courtenay, H. E. Ravenel, J. W. Babcock, M. D., Richard I. Manning and John J. Dargan, is hereby created, authorized and empowered to take charge of the funds appropriated in Section 1 hereof, and also all voluntary contributions which may be committed to them, and they shall take charge of the inscription and erection of the monument.

Section 3. That said funds hereby appropriated shall become available upon the approval of this Act by the Governor.

Approved the 25th day of February, A. D. 1907.

REPORT.

His Excellency Martin F. Ansel, Governor of South Carolina.

Sir: Under an Act of the General Assembly, approved the 25th day of February, A. D. 1907, providing for the erection of a monument to mark the grave of Gen. Thomas Sumter, and naming as a commission to perform this work, William A. Courtenay, H. E. Ravenel, J. W. Babcock, Richard I. Manning and John J. Dargan, the commission met, very soon thereafter, and organized by electing John J. Dargan, Chairman, and Robert I. Manning, Secretary. Mr. Courtenay having resigned, your Excellency was asked by the commission to fill the vacancy occasioned by his resignation, but you declined to do so on the ground that no power to fill vacancies was given by the Act. The commission then proceeded to do the work assigned it and submits the following report of that work for the information of the General Assembly.

JOHN J. DARGAN, Chairman,
J. W. BABCOCK,
H. E. RAVENEL,
RICHARD I. MANNING, Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

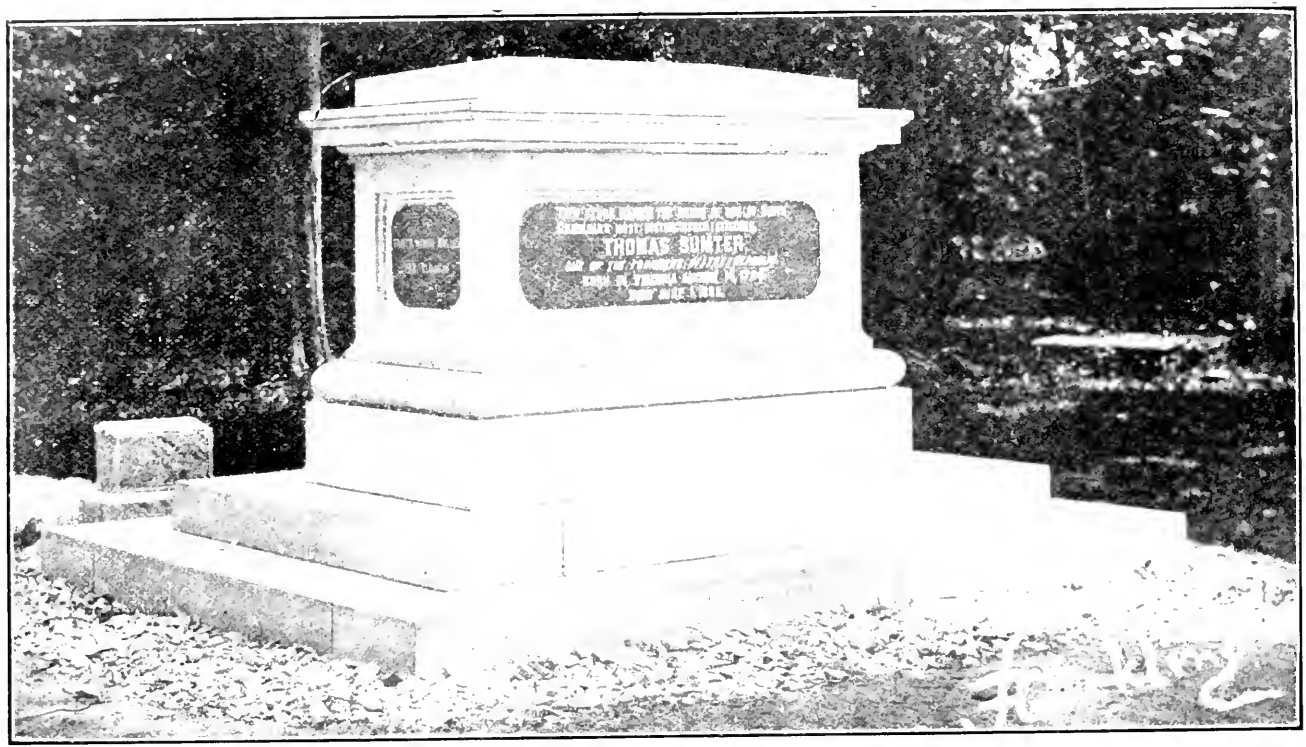
The State of South Carolina, to Gen. Thomas Sumter Monument Commission, Dr.

By amount of appropriation	$1,000	
To cost of monument		$900.00
To traveling expenses, H. E. Ravenel		32.40
To traveling expenses, J. J. Dargan		14.00
To traveling expenses, R. I. Manning		14.00
To expenses of transportaion, inspector		10.00
To telegrams, long-distance phone, etc		7.20
To certified check to State Treasurer for balance		22.40
	$1,000	$1,000.00

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD I. MANNING,

Secretary and Treasurer of the Gen. Thomas Sumter Monument Commission.



THE MONUMENT AT GENERAL SUMTER'S GRAVE

CEREMONIES

at the unveiling of the
Monument

TO

General Thomas Sumter

Erected by the General Assembly
of South Carolina at His Grave
at Stateburg, South Carolina,
August 14, 1907

ON THE

One Hundred and Seventy-Third Anniversary
of His Birth

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DAY.

BY J. E. NORMENT.

In *The State* (Columbia) of August 15, 1907.

Stateburg, Aug. 14.—More than a century ago the struggling patriots of the Revolution succeeded in establishing what, under the providence of God, was destined to be the republic of republics. This republic has increased in size and stature until it has for years been one of the world-powers. And among the band of brave spirits who battled for liberty and right, to whom fighting came even as the breath of life itself, and to whom death was only another name for glory everlasting—among these there was no truer and nobler man than was Gen. Thomas Sumter, the "Gamecock of the Revolution." This title, earned in the stormy days of the Revolution, perpetuates for General Sumter such honor and fame as belong to him whose calm courage and lofty spirit earned for him the title of "Stonewall" Jackson. For weeks and months preparations for this event have been in progress, and what transpired today showed that the fame of General Sumter—soldier, statesman, patriot—has grown with the growth of the country for which he fought so dauntlessly. These events formed a tribute to the dead—a tribute greater because of the long delay which has marked this seeming neglect upon the part of his countrymen.

But today the world hears again of Sumter, the stern fighter who did so much for the liberties of his country. And what the world hears tells no uncertain story. It tells that his own State has taken official action, through its General Assembly, and has erected a stately stone to perpetuate the name and the deeds of one who filled his own great place when his stricken country was in dire need of men. It tells that this work has been well done and that citizens of South Carolina, from all sections, with throngs from his own Gamecock county, come to do honor to the man once more. And it tells that national recognition was given to the exercises also, not only by the presence of Col. G. G. Greenough and his detachment of United States soldiers, but also by President Roosevelt, who sent a warm personal letter, congratulatory to the occasion. The old soldier sleeps, and has slept long and well, and though no monument has marked his resting-place, though no crowds have assembled to pay honored tribute to the fearless fighter and the

faith he kept so well, he has lived, as he will ever live, in the hearts of his countrymen.

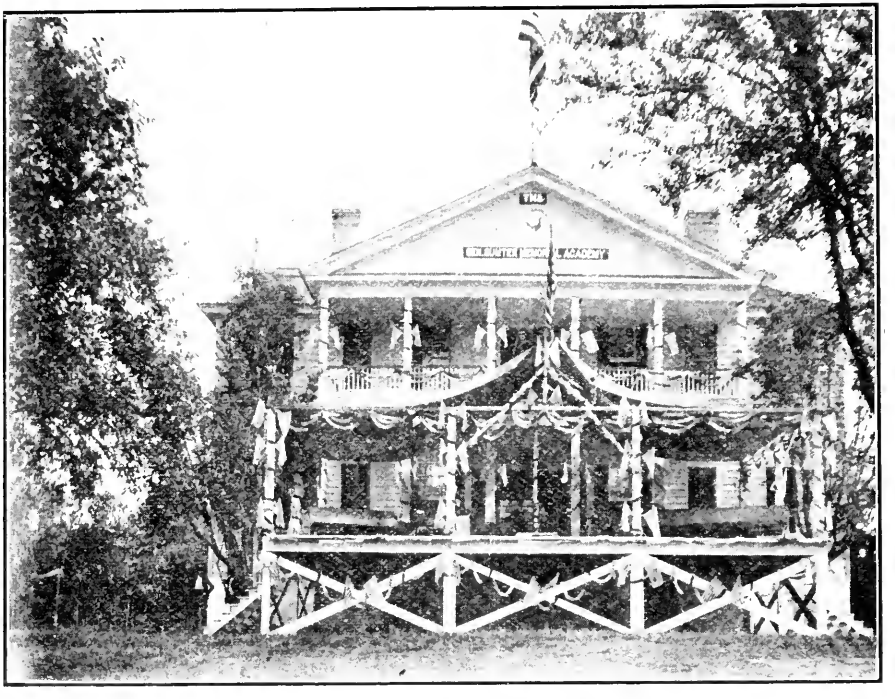
The exercises were conducted from a high platform, beautifully decorated and connected with a spacious portico of the General Sumter Memorial Academy. This building was erected 102 years ago by Gen. J. R. Kinloch, who was afterwards United States Minister to Russia.

The scene at the unveiling of the monument was beautiful in its solemn impressiveness; all nature combining to complete the rare scene which seemed so naturally to be far removed from the haunts of men.

The little graveyard—it is nothing more—way out in the woods, seems to have grown up with the pines, oaks and cedars by which it is surrounded, the gray moss hanging from the trees furnishing the one last touch needed. Here amid the solitude of nature, surrounded only by a few graves, lies the body of Sumter, and today the woodland quiet was broken by the tramp of thousands of feet. Men, women and children thronged the untrodden ways, the steady tramp of soldiers and the roll of the drum broke the long silence, and the sound of music was heard where only the wild bird sings. The quiet grave was surrounded by a cordon of United States soldiers and all available space, including perches in trees, was filled by eager onlookers.

The United States Artillery Band played "Columbia," and as the notes died away, the Rev. H. H. Covington earnestly and eloquently invoked divine blessing. Within the inclosure, standing near the draped monument, were members of the family, the bowed form of Mr. Sebastian Sumter, 87 years old and grandson of General Sumter, standing apart and alone. Near by were Governor Ansel, Governor Montague, Lieutenant-Governor McLeod, Superintendent of Education Martin, Adjutant-General Boyd, Col. J. J. Dargan, Congressman Lever, members of the monument commission and the speakers of the occasion.

"And now all the air a solemn stillness holds." The silence was unbroken for a moment, as Mrs. J. Herbert Haynesworth and Miss Beatrice Sumter, great-great-granddaughters, pulled the cords and unveiled the monument. Then the band played "America," and applause was heard. Misses Gena Dargan, Minnie Moses, Edith DeLorme, Alice Moses and Mrs. W. B. Bogin then put garlands on the new stone shining against the green forest background, the sol-



GENERAL SUMTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL
As it Appeared, Decorated for the Unveiling Exercises

diers present arms, the throngs go away, and once more Gen Thomas Sumter is left "alone with his glory."

After the unveiling ceremonies were over, the crowds once more repaired to the stand at the memorial academy. Several thousand people were present, special trains bringing in the military and visitors from various sections.

They came in crowds—they came in wagons, buggies, carriages, automobiles and railway coaches; they came in single file, by twos, columns of fours, battalions, companies; they came horse, foot and dragoons. The beautiful grove was filled and a choice crowd it was. Of course the white dresses, variegated millinery, bright eyes and graceful figures of the Dixie girls were numerous, bewildering and most attractive, but the stalwart forms of the men thronged all available space left for them. The crowd, in every respect, was as truly representative as the most ardent South Carolinian could wish, and this was an added tribute to this great occasion.

His Excellency Governor Ansel occupied the center of the stand, with former Governor Montague on his immediate right. Near Governor Montague were Lieutenant-Governor McLeod, Hon. O. B. Martin, Secretary of State; Adj.-Gen. J. C. Boyd, Col. J. J. Dargan, Gen. E. B. Cantey, Mr. A. S. Salley, Jr., and Rev. H. H. Covington. On the left of Governor Ansel were the Hon. R. I. Manning, Col. G. G. Greenough, Hon. H. A. M. Smith, H. M. Ayer, W. St. J. Jervey, Maj. Marion Moise, Col. R. D. Lee, Mr. Sebastian Smith and the direct family descendants of Gen. Thomas Sumter. Conspicuous among many others were Messrs. H. E. Ravenel and Dr. J. W. Babcock, who, with Messrs. R. I. Manning and Col. J. J. Dargan, chairman, compose the General Sumter Monument Commission.

Among the crowd, having a good, easy time, was Chief J. W. Bradford, of the Sumter police force, with ten picked men, all mounted, all having nothing to do but ride fine horses.

Mr. Sebastian Sumter was the guest of honor, many seeking him out to meet and talk with him, and he held quite a reception, despite the fact that he is nearly ninety years old.

Col. J. J. Dargan, chairman of the Sumter Monument Commission, in a few appropriate words, presented his Excellency Governor Ansel as the presiding officer of the occasion. Governor Ansel was received with cheers and applause, repeated after the band stopped playing "Dixie." He paid brief but strong tribute to the true spirit

of the occasion, and presented Col. R. I. Manning, whose pleasure it was to introduce former Governor Montague of Virginia. Colonel Manning's words of welcome for and presentation of this distinguished Southerner were most felicitous and covered broad ground.

Governor Montague had many claims upon this occasion, among these being the fact that he comes from Virginia, the native State of Thomas Sumter. He came most graciously and willingly, and surely he must have meant every word of his sincere appreciation which he so feelingly expressed, in response to the invitation which brought him; and the welcome that was tendered to Governor Montague was greeted with rousing cheers and ringing applause, and his speech was a strong presentation of the facts of history delivered with scholarly impressiveness.

This speech is published in full and will well repay a careful reading.

Governor Montague showed intimate personal knowledge of South Carolina history and of her great men, and his tributes to these, and the principles which they have stood for, brought forth applause throughout his remarks.

At the conclusion of Governor Montague's splendid speech, Governor Ansel won renewed applause for himself by his thoughtful and cordial words of appreciation for what the speaker had so admirably said.

When the music ceased, Governor Ansel presented Maj. Marion Moise, who, in graceful words, presented the Hon. H. A. M. Smith, who had been requested to deliver an address on Sumter's life, in biographical record of his life and deeds. Mr. Smith was greeted with lively applause, and with earnest words of thanks for the honor which was his in appearing as the "orator of the occasion"—which statement he modestly disclaimed—he proceeded with his address. The speaker broke his rule not to speak on public occasions, in order to have the privilege of participating in these impressive ceremonies, and his address, published below, is a most valuable contribution to the subject.

Governor Ansel then read the following letter from the President, and this patriotic letter, with the high regard which it so felicitously conveyed, together with the strong sympathy it expressed for the real meaning of the occasion, brought applause:

"The White House, Washington,
"Oyster Bay, N. Y., August 3, 1907.

"My dear Colonel Dargan: Instead of a telegram, which could be but short, I send you this letter, which I should be glad to have you read, if you care to, for I take a profound interest in the work you are doing. There is nothing in which I believe more than in the advancement of the country school in America, and, of course, like every really good American, I must take a peculiar and special interest in, and feel a particular sympathy for, the unveiling of the monument erected to General Sumter and the dedication of the school to his memory. My ancestors served under General Marion, who was General Sumter's colleague in the War of the Revolution. It is eminently fit to raise a memorial to the memory of General Sumter, and no memorial could be so appropriate to one who was not only a soldier, but a peculiarly high-minded patriot, as this school, the erection of which means so much for all the country around the 'High Hills of Santee.' I congratulate the city of Sumter for the generous aid which it has extended, and, above all, I congratulate the immediate community, who have done the work for themselves, and who, in doing it, have so helped all the life of the neighborhood. It is a sincere regret to me that I can not be present to greet them and congratulate them in person.

"Sincerely yours, THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

"Col. John J. Dargan, Principal General Sumter Memorial Academy, Stateburg, South Carolina."

Professor Edmunds read a letter from Congressman-elect Hobson, expressing his sincere regret that it was not possible for him to accept the courteous invitation to be present which he had received.

The presence of three hundred United States Regulars, under command of Capt. G. G. Greenough, with the First Artillery Band, was one of the features of the occasion. Of peculiar importance was the detachment from the Sumter Guards of Charleston, Capt. T. T. Hyde commanding. The Sumter Light Infantry, Capt. W. J. Bradford commanding, completed the number of military men present. These added materially to the interest and success of the occasion, and it was no idle compliment when Col. R. D. Lee offered strong resolutions of thanks and appreciation for this attendance, and these resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Accompanying the United States Regulars were the following officers: Col. E. E. Greenough, Capt. R. F. McMillan, Captain

Parkins, Lieut. J. M. Fulton, Lieut. W. H. Peak and Lieut. J. E. Wilson.

Among the prominent visitors were the following: Lieut.-Gov. T. G. McLeod, B. F. Kelley, W. A. James, J. B. McLaughlin and Editor A. S. Cunningham, of Bishopville; J. J. McMahon, of Columbia; Dr. D. B. Johnson, of Rock Hill; Mr. V. Campbell, of Birmingham; C. W. Birchmore, editor Wateree *Messenger*, and Capt. W. M. Shannon, of Camden; W. McD. Green, of Oswego; Editor Hartwell M. Ayer, of Florence, and Col. L. C. Hough, of Kershaw.

Very many special features marked this occasion. Nothing was left undone for the comfort and pleasure of the visitors. Dr. George W. Dick and Mr. Hugh C. Haynesworth were chairmen of the entertainment committee, and many will bear grateful testimony to their efficiency and to their unbounded hospitality. The dinner was fine; so were the thirst-quenchers, and so, also, were the choice brands of cigars.

Committees from various sections of the county had very, very much to do. Space forbids saying more than that they did well, and in the circumstances there is no need to say more.

Mr. I. D. Reardon, the capable and energetic secretary of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, was the busiest man here, except Col. J. J. Dargan. Mr. Reardon was the right-hand man of your correspondent, in spite of his many duties, and his assistance was simply invaluable.

Among many pleasant acknowledgments due here, your correspondent would like to say much concerning Mr. J. A. Schwerin and his car, the "Northern." The drive was made with Mr. Schwerin, General Boyd and Superintendent Martin, and "we" showed our heels to everything on the road on the trip out, and on the return trip also.

The true significance of all that was done today and its real meaning will be understood by the thoughtful ones who have any interest in the traditions of their State and who care for its reputation at home and elsewhere. Nothing is necessary to be said for those who appreciate these things, and it is useless to attempt to say anything to those for whom these things have no meaning. There are many who will hear, with feelings of pride and gratitude, of what was done here today. It was a privilege to be present and see what was done—to share in all that the event means.

And to one man alone is due primarily the success of this occasion in every respect. This man is Col. J. J. Dargan, and to him the people of the State owe a debt of gratitude.

The exercises of the day were concluded by several addresses in the afternoon on educational topics, but on account of the lateness of the hour when the exercises were called to order and the threatening weather, the attendance was small. Those present gave the closest attention to what the speakers had to say. The meeting was presided over by Hon. O. B. Martin, State Superintendent of Education, in his usual happy and pleasant manner. On introducing the speakers, Mr. Martin made some timely remarks appropriate to the occasion.

Miss Mary T. Nance, president of the School Improvement Association, was the first speaker. Her address was on "The Importance of Rural School Work in South Carolina." It was an extremely interesting presentation of this work and was most charmingly delivered.

The last speaker was Mr. E. S. Dreher, Superintendent of the Public Schools of Columbia, whose thoughtful address was in answer to the question, "Shall We Educate Against Crime?"

Colonel Dargan then made a few closing remaks in a very feeling manner, and the interesting exercises of this most interesting historical occasion were closed by the singing of a peace hymn by the audience.

It was a matter of much regret to those present that President D. B. Johnson was unable to be present and take part in the educational meeting. Having just returned from attending the meeting of the National Educational Association at Los Angeles, Cal., he wrote that it was impossible for him to attend the meeting.

ADDRESS BY HON. A. J. MONTAGUE.

"Upon this interesting occasion it is difficult to shut out of mind a realizing sense of that dominant force which so early gave power and identity of an American civilization, and in behalf of which the life we today commemorate spent its austere patriotism and military genius.

"The fifteenth century loosened the quickening power of the two mighty events, akin in historic time and purpose, the invention of printing and the discovery of America; the two being new ways of thinking and new ways of living unto countless thousands, and bringing a new and structural concept of liberty unto the civilizations of the world.

"Printing required time to socialize liberty, and a hundred years after Columbus pressed his mailed foot upon the torrid Bahamas might well elapse in preparing the world for the sturdy and progressive tread of Teutonic freedom upon the northern half of our hemisphere. So that when the Anglo-Saxon came to Jamestown in 1607 to establish and maintain themselves and their institutions, they soon found these institutions, and especially those of them that made most of the rational and ethical liberty, illuminated as never before by the educative power of printing, and energized as never before by the stimulating environment of a new world. A new actor, a new stage and a new light had suddenly, as runs the race of civilization, burst upon the visions of the peoples of the world.

"Liberty finds its concrete genius and strength in local self-government, in constitutional sanctions and limitations, in the guaranty of equality of individual opportunity, and in the appreciation and practice of personal and social responsibility. George the Third realized the secret sources of this bouyant and reforming force, and quickly began to lay upon it his oppressive and heavy hand, only to be met by the tactful, vigorous, and finally revolutionary dissent of his American colonies.

"Injustice nearly always sows the seed of justice, and tyranny nearly always kindles the flame of liberty. The law of relativity holds in the political world, and the pendulum of society will swing back and forth. So the Colonists were early conscious of their wrongs and daring in expressions of enlarged conceptions of their rights. Nathaniel Bacon, a good hundred years before 1776, was crying into the ears of the royal governor of Virginia some of the identical notes which were to peal forth in the Great Declaration—

that governments were made for man, and not man for governments; and that all just governments must rest upon the consent of the governed. From this time on the Colonists waxed and strengthened in the care and keeping of these great politics, and grew restive and defiant under the arbitrary exactions of the royal government.

"South Carolina early and aggressively stood for the substitution of the consent of the governed for the will of an hereditary sovereign. Her voice was potential in calling the first Continental Congress in opposition to the Stamp Act. Her Assembly quickly approved of the resolve of this Congress in behalf of the 'cause of freedom and union,' and boldly transmitted them to England. Her Legislature voted a statue to Pitt, that lofty and inspiring apostle of English liberty. She published the names of her citizens who would not sign the non-importation agreement. She remitted 10,500 pounds to the Society of London for supporting the Bill of Rights in the protection of the liberty of Great Britain and America. And her Rutledge, her Gadsden and her Laurens came back with fire upon their lips to tell that they had heard at Westminster the voices of Burke and Chatham, of Richmond and Rockingham, pleading the cause of the colonies, and declaring that cause right and just.

"The masses of our people also felt that larger pulse of liberty, developed by the reformatory forces which I have all too briefly and imperfectly sketched; and amongst the masses was a strain of blood of the noblest survivors of the Latin race, who came in goodly numbers to your shores after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and who in subsequent years gave to you so many distinguished sons, but among them none greater than the profound publicist and the learned jurist, Hugh Swinton Legare. But the temper and character of this people in those stormy days can best be realized by a recital of the cold figures of her contribution to the Revolutionary armies. Into this army South Carolina gave 31,131 of her sons, outnumbering New York and almost Pennsylvania, the former doubling and the latter tripling her military population.

"South Carolina was, therefore, no uncongenial soil to Thomas Sumter, who came from Virginia to the high hills of the Santee about the year 1765; and it may be truthfully affirmed that your great State has received into its life no nobler spirit than that of this man, who was born in the County of Hanover, the birthplace of Patrick Henry, and of Henry Clay, and near the homes of Thomas Jefferson, John Taylor and Edmund Pendleton. He early

drew his sword for his native colony in the French and Indian wars, and witnessed with Washington the deserved defeat of the reckless Braddock, thus schooling himself for the arduous and brilliant service afterwards rendered his adopted State.

"The beginning of the ending of the Revolution is embraced within the four years from 1777 to 1781, from Saratoga to Yorktown, a period during which active war was transferred almost entirely from the North to the South. The early portion of this period was most discouraging. Augusta and Savannah had fallen; General Prevost was harrying the country with a warfare of barbarism as only a buccaneer of his type could wage; the disastrous and ignominous defeat of Gates at Camden saw the destruction of our second army within three months; the Tories were ruthless in their atrocities, and the Patriots retorted with unjustifiable reprisals; the Congress was a meddlesome debating society, relying upon words more than swords, hampering Washington, and capriciously bestowing its rewards; the treason of Arnold was striking dismay into the country; waste and depression and poverty were covering the land; money was only paper and worth only paper; and all combined to confirm the declaration of Walpole that 'America is at our feet.'

"Yet at this time the struggle was assuming international connections and complications beneficial to America. Franklin had consummated a treaty between France and the Colonies. Frederick the Great had not only opened the port of Dantzic to our cruisers, but had prohibited the Hessian soldiers passing through his dominion, thus summarily cutting off this powerful source of supply to the British army. These conditions, together with the marvelous resiliency of the Colonies, alarmed England, and to the amazement and disgust of Parliament, Lord North turned a political somersault, bringing in a programme which, if earlier presented and adopted, would have prevented or ended the war. Commissioners of North's ministry came to America only to find this mission so belated as to be unavailing, and completed their work by issuing truculent and threatening manifestoes, which were no negligible cause of the subsequent atrocities of the British soldiery in South Carolina, which so harried the State that Mr. Fiske says, 'The fit ground for wonder is that in spite of such adverse circumstances, the State of South Carolina should have shown as much elastic strength as she did under the severest military stress which any

any American State was called upon to withstand during the Revolutionary War.'

"In this period of distress Sumter's military achievements came to bring hope and comfort to the American cause. His victory at Ramseur's Mill in May of 1780 sounded throughout the country. At the Williams Plantation, some weeks thereafter, he repeated his success in the rout and death of Colonel Ferguson and Captain Huck, with their large detachment of British Tories, thus giving the cheering incident of the first check to the British arms in the State. His prestige increased at the battle of Hanging Rock a few days thereafter, when he destroyed the whole regiment of the Prince of Wales and a large band of Tories under Colonel Brian. A month later, we find him victorious at Musgrove's Mills, on the Enoree. Indeed, the simultaneous success of Sumter and Marion in this despondent period heartened the American cause and drove Cornwallis again into the field, causing him to write that he would 'be glad to hear that Sumter is not in a condition to give him further trouble; he certainly has been the greatest plague to this country,' and that 'but for Sumter and Marion South Carolina would be at peace.'

"We soon again hear of Sumter's brilliant exploit in cutting Cornwallis' line of communication and capturing his supply train, which, however, was neutralized by the surprise and defeat of Sumter by Tarleton at Fishing Creek a few days thereafter. Sumter made his escape and went immediately to York to recruit, and was ready to participate in the memorable battle of King's Mountain. Within a short time his star was again in the ascendant, and the people were quickly thrilled by his capture of Major Weymiss on Broad Road. Tarleton at once undertook to retrieve this defeat only to find himself outgeneraled and his whole command destroyed by Sumter at Black Stock Hill. After the commencement of this fight Sumter changed his plan of battle, thus exhibiting his military genius in turning unexpected exigencies to his advantage. Yet the victory was saddened by the dear price of a severe wound which he received in the breast, and which disabled him for some months.

"Immediately upon the recovery of his health he resumed his work. The British considered him their worst enemy. They burned his home and turned his wife and son out of doors. But these misfortunes only strengthened his inflexible will and fired his inspiring activity. The battle of Cowpens, displaying the brilliant strategy and execution of Daniel Morgan, now came to give high

hope to the country, and the battle of Guilford Court House followed to turn the tide of the American Revolution. Cornwallis' plan of campaign was now broken. With his Southern army he was to effect a junction with Clinton in Virginia, thus crushing between the two British armies the small American force. But Cowpens and Guilford Court House rudely shattered a scheme which was adopted by Grant and Sherman a century later. The battle of Guilford was claimed by the British, but Charles Fox, with dramatic eloquence, declared that 'Another such victory would destroy the British army.' Thus were Cornwallis' troops hurriedly and unwillingly removed from the Carolinas, and his surrender in October following brought to the full conscience of the American people the patience, the sagacity and the strategy of Washington in accomplishing one of the world's greatest achievements, with which Sumter's name, and fame, and glory will be indissolubly associated.

"The termination of hostilities, however, did not end Sumter's public life. His courage, his probity, his candor, his freedom from vicissitudes of opinion or purpose, his opulent faith in the practical efficiency of self-government, and his military fame, gave him an immediate and sure place in the confidence of the people.

"In his mission to England in 1762 for the Cherokee Indians he had exhibited, at an early age, an aptitude for public affairs, and his entrance into the Continental Congress after the Revolution must have been made with a confidence that he was not unfitted for legislative service.

"In civil life he still clung to the great principles underlying the Revolution, and he believed that definite and practical results should crown our victorious achievement. He unquestionably realized the fatal futility of the government under the Articles of Confederation, and he gave his great influence for calling the Constitutional Convention of 1787, that the spirit and end of the struggle might be made effective. So it seems quite in the course of things to find him a member of that memorable convention, giving his counsel and influence in behalf of a 'more perfect union,' and a more responsible and workable government.

"In the first Congress under the new Constitution we again see his commanding presence. His words were few; his votes were many, and his position upon important questions instant and decisive. He did not dodge or make dubious pairs upon roll-calls. He was not inflated by applause or disconcerted by hostile majorities. He was an ardent State Rights man when his State was Federalist

in opinion and action, and he was, therefore, opposed to the leadership of C. C. Pinckney, William Smith and William R. Harper. He aided Charles Pinckney, the minority leader, in the memorable national campaign of 1800, believing with all his soul that the defeat of Jefferson would be hardly less disastrous than civil war.

"He opposed the bill to pension the widow of the distinguished General Greene. He thought Greene underestimated the militia, and that his conduct of the Southern department of the Continental army during and shortly after the war was not wholly creditable. His stand upon this bill indicated the positiveness of his views and the fearlessness of his character.

"Being an ardent Republican or Democrat, he consistently opposed the 'alien and sedition laws.' This extraordinary and vicious legislation conflicted with his dearest political convictions, and he kept his seat for weeks with the hope of defeating the bill. In connection with this legislation it may not be inappropriate to recall an incident which throws no less light upon the temper of the times than upon Sumter's devotion to duty. His colleague in the House, Matthew Lyons, of Vermont, was imprisoned and fined $1,000 for violation of these famous laws. Sumter cordially helped Jefferson in raising the money to pay his fine, and upon the reappearance of Lyons in the House he was brutally insulted upon the floor by Griswold, of Connecticut, when Lyons, losing control of himself, spat in Griswold's face. For this violation of the decorum of the House a resolution was offered for the expulsion of Lyons. Sumter vigorously and successfully co-operated with Gallatin, Macon and others in defeating this resolution.

"Upon the appointment of Charles Pinckney as Minister to Spain in 1801 Sumter succeeded him in the Senate, serving therein until 1810, though the annals of Congress do not show that he was in his seat during the last session of his term. We read nothing from him in the way of speeches. Indeed, the Senate was not a forum of discussion until, about 1816, the majestic debates of Calhoun, Clay, Webster and Hayne were long after to stir and illuminate the republic. But here Sumter was the same direct and intrepid personality as of old. He was still an ardent Republican or Democrat. He still gave vigorous support to Jefferson's policies, such as the twelfth amendment, the Louisiana purchase, and the impeachment of Justice Chase. In this famous trial Sumter voted for conviction upon four of the five specifications, his colleague, Gaillard, voting for acquittal upon every charge. The erratic, but brilliant,

John Randolph, of Roanoke, bunglingly managed this impeachment, which otherwise might have resulted in a conviction, for Chase was grossly unfit for the judicial robe; and it was perhaps Randolph's connection with this trial that made him once declare that if he 'Were allowed to vote by proxy, and on that vote depended the welfare of the republic, he (I) would make Thomas Sumter his (my) proxy.'

"In 1806 Sumter is still the staunch partisan of Jefferson, supporting his inexpedient but righteous 'Embargo Act,' which Sumter approved in its entirety, save the clause giving to the President absolute power during the recess of Congress, when his splendid independence came into play in parting company with his personal friends and party associates.

"Long after Sumter's retirement from political life, when we heard the first rumblings of the storm which was to break with such destructive force upon our country in 1860, his early faith broke forth afresh, and the early fire of his life flamed anew in his support of the incomparable Calhoun and his great fight for nullification, Calhoun's panacea for settlement within the Union of conflicts between the State and the nation. May I give you his own words in a letter to his son in 1831? Words so characteristic of his energy and directness: 'If any one,' he writes, 'of the present generation has forgotten these wholesome truths, let them, before they attempt to seduce, or terrify me, read carefully the Declaration of Independence, the Debates on the Ratification of the Federal Constitution itself, and its amendments (without which it could not have existed five years), the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions, adopted in the reign of terror, the proceedings and protest of their own and other Legislatures on the fraudulent tariff of 1828, and last, because latest, the able exposition just offered to them by the second officer of the general government (Mr. Calhoun) of the principles, the policy, the powers and the limitations, ascribed in the Constitution to the Federal authority as distinguished from the residuary rights and powers retained by the State authorities of the same government when they formed the Constitution out of the old confederation.'

"Thus his last public utterance, made at the great age of 94, was but a renewed expression of his faith in local self-government, which he had held since the pre-Revolutionary days, and of his unqualified approval of the State's interpretation of the doctrine of 'State rights.' Rugged, intense, steadfast and intrepid, he still was

as the darkness of nearly a century of years was closing in upon his life.

"But his life must end. He has long lain here among the hills he loved so well, hard by the Santee's soft requiem, and we come this day, after many changing years, to exalt his name and ourselves that we have not forgotten him. The ashes from the fierce fires through which he passed with so much glory to himself and to his race, are now cold and blown far and about. Cornwallis and Tarleton, if living, would congratulate South Carolina in this, her commemoration of their old and tireless foe, and we, the children of the long after years, grow daily in reverence for our 'strong mother of a lion line,' keeping home and traditions in her rough-blown island across the seas, and we make daily covenant about the altar of liberty that upon these new-found shores—

> " 'The single note
> From that deep chord which Hampden smote
> Will vibrate to the doom.'

"But this monument is yet more to us. It is a symbol of the dear old unrestrained days—days happily, after bloody interruption, now come back to stay forever more. Here the children of a perfect Union may gather to drink, not of the blood of war but of the cup of peace, and to hear, not the tocsin of strife but the music of fraternity. Here we can come to revive in the days of our strength that religious patriotism which we relied upon without fail in the days of our weakness. Here we can come for those nourishing traditions of self-sacrifice that subordinate self to the community, the community to the State and the State to the nation. Here we can come to gain strength to live above the ties of friendship and the allurements of peace for the welfare of all the people. Here we can come to have our dying selves touched with a quickening life of scorn for all disorder, lawlessness, corruption and political uncleanliness. Here we can come, lest we forget, to beg of the God of all peoples to give unto us humble and contrite hearts that we may strive to promote justice, peace, fraternity, culture and comfort among all our countrymen. And here we can come to learn that the liberty those of old fought to achieve is but as dust in the balance unless we, their sons, supplement it by an educated sense of responsibility.

"And now, fellow-citizens of this romantic State, I, imperfectly, but sincerely, bring you the greetings of your older and most loving

sister, who, through the spirits of Campbell and Morgan, of William Washington and Light Horse Harry Lee, comrades in arms upon your soil with the great Sumter, would bless this occasion and this deed which you have assembled to honor."

ADDRESS BY HENRY A. M. SMITH.

We are met together today to unveil a monument to, and thereby to do honor to the memory of, one to whom the State of South Carolina owes a debt of deepest gratitude.

When I first received the honor of an invitation to take part in this ceremonial, and turned my attention to the matter and subject of any essay I should deliver there was brought forcibly back to my mind what many years ago I had discovered—that is, the exceedingly scanty information we possessed of much of the life of General Sumter. He is an object-lesson of how a man may attain wide and enduring fame and reputation during his life and yet leave behind him at his death nothing to tell future generations of the details of a life that has passed away. Whilst living everything is taken for granted. No one supposes it possible that ignorance can exist concerning one whose name and deeds are on the lips and in the minds of every one. But that generation passes. New figures on the stage play to new audiences and it comes to pass that when one of a later generation turns to inquire of the details upon which a fame was founded that has come to him in the shape of a general and recognized tradition, he is perturbed to find that there is nothing but this general recognition and tradition upon which he can lay hold.

So has it been with General Sumter. There does not exist a single sketch even of his life worthy of the title of a life of him.

His contemporary in time, although subordinate in rank, Francis Marion, has three biographers—Weems, James and Simms. His contemporary and commanding officer, Gen. Nathanael Greene, has the bulky, two-volume life of him, by Johnson and no less than four other biographers. Sumter has had literally no biographer, and to find out anything about him it has been necessary to pick it out of the histories of the events of the day. Concerning his earlier life prior—to the Revolutionary War—and his later years after its close there does not exist a single account of his worthy the name of even a sketch.

Around Marion there has grown and clustered a wealth of romance. Both fiction and poetry have joined to paint him with all the alluring colors of admiring description, yet I venture to say that there is nothing in Marion's life more romantic or filled with more desperate adventure than Sumter's early struggles in frontier

Indian warfare, or his intrepid and gallant contests with Tarleton, the dashing and conquering commander of the British cavalry.

It has seemed to me, therefore, that the most appropriate way in which I could testify our admiration for his character and do honor to his memory today would be to, as fully as possible in the narrow limits of a public speech, repair the indifference of the past by giving as full and authentic an account of his life and exploits as it lies in my power to do.

As in many other cases of men who have become famous through their worth and abilities, but who have been too modest to be their own biographers, there is very little material from which to write the history of Sumter's early life. The date and place of his birth are alike uncertain.

McCrady, in his *History of South Carolina in the Revolution*, states that he was born the 14th of July, 1736, in Hanover County, Virginia, and adds that his father's family were from Wales, but had removed to England and thence emigrated to Virginia, and that his mother was a Virginian of English stock.* He refers to no authority for this, but it has always been understood that his information was derived from General Sumter's descendants. As to date of birth, this is confirmed by Mills, whose *Statistics of South Carolina* was published in 1826, when General Sumter was still alive, and who states that he was then ninety.†

Also General Sumter's son, Thomas Sumter, Jr., writing to his daughter in December, 1825, mentions that his father was then in his 88th year, which would carry the year of his birth back to 1736.‡

There is, however, in the possession of General Sumter's lineal descendants an old leaf, which is traditionally said to be a leaf from the family Bible. This old leaf has written upon it in quite archaic script the following entries:

Wm. Sumter was born in Hanover County, in Virginia, on the 29 October, 1731.

Thomas Sumter was born in said county on August 14, 1734.

From the reminiscences of John Redd, later referred to, we learn he had a brother, William. Taking into consideration the family tradition as to the leaf in question being from the family Bible, the appearance of the entries upon it and their particularity, corroborated by the fact that he had a brother William, evidently the one

*McCrady: *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780*, p. 564.

†Mills: *Statistics of South Carolina*, p. 746.

‡Original MS. in possession of R. J. Brownfield, Esq.

referred to in the first entry, it would seem most likely that the exact date of his birth was as stated in the entry, the 14th of August, 1734, and that he was born in Hanover County. He was, therefore, younger than his great contemporary, Francis Marion, who was born, it is believed, in 1732.

Since the publication of McCrady's history some more material concerning the birthplace and early life of General Sumter has been made available by the publications of the Virginia Historical Society. In a letter written by John Redd, of Henry County, Virginia, to Dr Lyman C. Draper, and dated 13th June, 1850, giving Mr. Redd's recollections and reminiscences of people in his section, he states:

4th. Gen'l Sumpter's Mother was a Widow when I first knew her, which was when I was quite a small boy. When I left Orange County in 1774 the Old Lady was then living. I think she lived several years afterward and died in Orange. I know nothing of Gen'l Sumpter's boyhood days nor of his father. His education was only such as could be obtained in his day at neighborhood schools. I don't know when or whom he married; I think, tho, he married some Lady of South Carolina. During the latter part of the Revolution his Bro., Wm., moved to S. Carolina. I don't know what finally became of him.

* * * * * * * * * *

The greatest intimacy always existed between Gen'l Martin, Gen. Sumpter and Col. Cleveland. They were very wild in their youthful days. Cleveland I don't think was hardly as wild as the other two. I recollect a circumstance which not only shows the intimacy between Gen'l Sumpter and Martin & their fondness for pleasure, but also Gen'l Sumpter's strict honesty. The first year I think it was that Gen'l Sumpter was elected to Congress from S. Carolina, while on his way to Washington he stopped at Richmond. As soon as he stopped at a hotel he sent up to the Capitol for Martin & myself, who were members of the Legislature there. He was highly pleased at meeting with us—particularly his old companion, Martin, whom he had not seen for some twenty-five years. They called each other by the familiar names, Joe & Tom. Time passed rapidly & pleasantly while they talked of the events of their youthful days. Just before Sumter started (for he staid only a few hours) he asked Martin if he recollected the last frolic they had at Johnson's. Martin said that they had really had *so* many he could not. Sumpter said he recollected it well, and should never forget it; for, said he, I lost all my money playing cards & you loaned me five pounds. Martin said he had no recollection whatever of the transaction, and Sumpter must be mistaken. Sumpter said he *knew* he owed the money, and, putting his hands in his pockets, he pulled out ten guineas and said he *should* take it.*

In the reminiscences of the same John Redd, published as separate from his letter to Dr. Draper, he again states concerning General Sumter:

Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 7, pp. 402, 403.

Gen. Thom Sumpter was also born and raised in the uper end of Orange County, near the blue ridge. I never new his Father, for he died before my reckollection, his mother lived to be quite an old woman, beloved and respected by all who knew her, the father of Gen. Sumpter was not wealthy, though in easy circumstances. I do not know how many Brothers or Sisters Gen. Sumpter had. I new his bro., Wm., who was not of much note. I also new one Sister of his, who married a man by the name of Lan. Gen. Sumpter, I think, had only one son, who was sent as Minister or Consul to some foreign Court and there died.†

* * * * * * * * * *

Gen. Sumpter was born & raised in the county of Orange, in the State of Virginia. Some years before the Revolutionary war Sumpter was sent by order of the Government in charge of several Indians of note to England, where he remained for some time, and then returned home with his red companions. I suppose the object of his mishion to England was that the Indians might see the power and resources of the British Government, and thereby learn the folly of raising their army against their white brethren on this side of the Atlantic; after Sumpter returned from England he removed to South Carolina and there established for himself a reputation which is obtained by but few.*

In the same magazine is published a sketch of the distinguished Virginian, Gen. Joseph Martin, written by his son, William Martin. Gen. Joseph Martin was born in 1740, in Albemarle County, Virginia, and died in Henry County, Virginia, in 1808. This sketch of him is contained in the form of a letter from William Martin to Dr. Lyman C. Draper, dated 1st June, 1842.

In this sketch Mr. Martin states that his father ran off from his apprenticeship during the war in 1756, and joined the army at Fort Pitt, now Pittsburgh, and adds:

My father, in his raising among other boys of the same temperament, became associated with Tom—Gen. Sumpter, who so distinguished himself as the partizan chief in South Carolina during the war of the Revolution, and went with him to the war. Behold these two hapless youths; those turbulent spirits that could not be tamed with the ordinary pursuits of civil life, rushing along, like water seeking its own level, four or five hundred miles through mostly a wilderness, interspersed with hostile savages, in quest of aliment that might satisfy their craving appetites. Little did they or anybody else think at the time that these were some of the rising spirits that were to lead in the revolution, which afterwards gave liberty to this country. How long they remained in the army or the part they acted there is not known, though it is thought a good while. Sumpter returned first. My father on his return found him in jail at Staunton, Virginia, for debt. He obtained permission to lodge a night in prison with his friend. In the morning, when he went out, he left with Sumpter his tomahawk and ten guineas, and with one or both of which he

†*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 7, p. 5.
*Ibid., p. 243.

escaped from prison. Soon afterwards he went to South Carolina, changed his course of life and became distinguished, as is known to all who have read the history of the Revolution. Thus were they separated for many years; and until at length my father was at Richmond, Virginia, a member of the legislature. Sumpter was a member of Congress, and on his way home called at Richmond, where they met for the first time in more than thirty years. What a meeting this must have been! to talk over old matters and things! They had both now become old and highly elevated in the temple of Fame. What proud satisfaction they must have felt in the retrospection! Before they separated Sumpter handed my father twenty guineas—having reference to the prison.†

Appleton's *Encyclopedia of American Biography* states that Sumter was present at Braddock's defeat in 1755 and seems afterward to have been engaged in military service on the frontier.

McCrady, in his history, states that he served in the Virginia provincial corps in the French and Indian wars, and was present at Braddock's defeat in 1755, and that he was sent by Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia, on a mission to the Cherokees and accompanied the Indian chiefs to England in 1762.‡

Neither gives any reference or authority for these statements. The family tradition as contained in a MS. sketch of General Sumter by his granddaughter, Miss Brownfield, is to the effect as stated by McCrady, who obtained his information from her. The same tradition is stated in an obituary of General Sumter, published in *The Sumter Gazette* for June 9, 1832—probably obtained from some one of General Sumter's descendants at the time.**

Great weight, however, should fairly be attached to the recollections of John Redd and William Martin. Mr. Redd personally knew both General Sumter's mother and his brother, William, and was himself present at the interview between Sumter and Gen. Joseph Martin at Richmond, where Sumter paid his old friend twenty guineas.

There is nothing directly from Gen. Joseph Martin, who died in 1808, but the account of his son, William Martin, who wrote in 1842—but who had been old enough in 1775 to accompany his father on an expedition to Tennessee—is an account by one who was in a position to hear, and did hear, at first hand.* If his father and

†*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 8, pp. 350, 351.

‡McCrady: *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution*, 1775-1780, p. 564.

**In a list of persons who took the oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia in Henry County, on 30th May, 1777, is mentioned George Sumpter. (*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 9, p. 18.)

*Ibid., Vol. 8, p. 358.

Sumter had been present at so notable an occurrence as Braddock's defeat he would scarcely have failed to mention it. He says they joined the army in 1756, whereas Braddock's defeat took place in 1755.†

The authenticity of the Martin reminiscences is strengthened by the circumstances that the earliest known letter of General Sumter in existence is dated 7th December, 1763, and is addressed to Mr. Joseph Martin, whom he addressed as "Friend and Loving Comrade," and mentions a debt he owes him.‡

The following MS. notes, made by Dr. Lyman C. Draper, have been furnished by a descendant of General Sumter:

28th November, 1761. Thos. Sumter, with Lieut. Timberlake, left Great Isld, on Tenn. River, to go to the Cherokee Nation.

On the 15th May Thos. S. embarked at Hampton Roads, Va., for England, & arrived at Portsmouth on the 16th June, 1762, with 3 Indians. Ortinaco, the Indian Chief, among them, & Lieut. Timberlake. The sloop Epreuve, Capt. Peter Blake, was the Ship which took them to England.

About the 25th August, 1762, Thos. Sumter embarked with the three Indian Chiefs, & without Lieut. Timberlake, for Charleston on the same ship which had taken him to England.

Dr. Draper's notes as furnished give no references for these statements, but in *The South-Carolina Gazette* (No. 1455) for 5th June, 1767, the statement is made that Judd's friend, one of the principal headmen of the Cherokee Nation, had gone to Virginia, and had permission to go to England in one of the King's ships.

In the *Gazette* (No. 1476) for 30th October, 1762, under the head of the local Charles Town news, it is stated:

Thursday last arrived here his Majesty's Snow Epreuve, commanded by Capt. Peter Blake, with Judd's friend and the two other Cherokee Indians that attended him, who went to England on the said Snow in June last.

And in No. 1481 for December 4, 1762:

Judd's friend and the two other Cherokees that returned with him from England in his Majesty's Snow, the Epreuve, set off from ninety-six the 18th ulto. for the Cherokee Nation well pleased.

No mention is made of Thomas Sumter, or Ortinaco, unless the same Indian chief was intended by the name "Judd's Friend."

From all which we can infer that he was born in Virginia, probably in Hanover County, on the 14th August, 1734; that he received only

†An examination of the roll of the Virginia provincial regiment which accompanied Braddock—if it be in existence—would disclose whether the names of Sumter and Martin appeared.

‡*Publications Southern History Association,* Vol. 11, p. 81.

such education as could be obtained from the ordinary country school of the time (as is evidenced by his spelling, grammar and vocabulary in his letters); that he served in the war against the French and Indians, either at or just after Braddock's defeat; that he accompanied in some capacity the Indian chiefs sent by Governor Dinwiddie to England in 1762, and on his return went to South Carolina in October, 1762. We have no account of his movements from October, 1762, to March, 1763.*

From this date in 1763 we have the record evidence of his presence and life in South Carolina. On 26th March, 1763, *The South-Carolina Gazette* of that date mentions that a Frenchman had been lately delivered up by Mr. Sumter to Lieut. Charles Taylor, commandant at Fort Prince George Keehowee, adding:

> If the great warrior had been in the nation, 'tis thought Mr. Sumter would not have been suffered to bring him away.

In the *Gazette* of 23d April, 1763, it is stated that the French prisoner taken by Mr. Sumter in the Cherokee Nation in February had been that week brought to town.

It is not stated in what capacity Mr. Sumter was in the Cherokee Nation, nor is his personal name given; he is styled Mr. Sumter. In the light of what follows there is little room to doubt it was Thomas Sumter. In his letter to Joseph Martin, before alluded to, dated 7th December, 1763, Sumter says:

> If you intend out next spring. I wish you Good success in all your Partention, and if I Go myself I shall have a Company, which by the promises that I have had I have Great Reason to Expect it.

This would appear to refer to some expectation he had of being appointed to command a company in some proposed Indian expedition. In 1761 the expedition from South Carolina, under the command of Colonel Grant, had so thoroughly humbled the Cherokees that no expedition from South Carolina against them was in contemplation—at least from South Carolina. There may have been, however, from the more northern colonies.

In 1766 he purchased from Aquilla Miles a tract of two hundred acres of land on the south side of the Santee River, in the eastern part of what is now Orangeburg County.† He was in South Caro-

*An examination of Dr. Draper's MS. volumes at the Historical Society library in Madison, Wis., might clear up these uncertainties. They are said to number several volumes.

†Mesne Conveyance records, Charleston, book Z, No. 3, p. 267.

lina earlier than that, for in 1765 he mortgaged slaves to William Fludd, of St. John's Parish, Berkeley.†

On October 25, 1768, in a bill of sale describing himself as Thomas Sumter, of Craven County, merchant, he sold a female slave to Miss Lynch Roberts.‡

On the 21st June, 1769, he mortgaged seven negro slaves to secure the loan of £1,050, currency of the province.**

On 18th November, 1769, describing himself as "Thomas Sumter, storekeeper," of St. Mark's Parish, Craven County, he mortgaged sixteen men, three boys, ten women and three girl slaves to secure a loan of £5,000, currency of the province.††

In explanation, it should be stated that St. Mark's Parish was created in 1757, and included what is now Sumter and Clarendon counties.

On 1st June, 1771, we find Thomas Sumter and Mary, his wife, of the parish of St. Mark, conveying to Samuel Dubois the two hundred acres he had purchased from Aquilla Miles.‡‡

Exactly when the marriage of Sumter took place can not be said, as there appears to be no record remaining. Some time evidently between 1763 and 1768—when his eldest child was born.

He married a widow—Mrs. Mary Jameson, who had been Miss Mary Cantey.*† She was the daughter of Joseph Cantey, of St. Mark's Parish, and the granddaughter of Capt William Cantey,* originally of Ashley River, and possibly the same Captain Cantey who, at the siege of Charles Town, by the French and Spaniards in 1706, distinguished himself, with Captain Fenwicke, by defeating a party of the enemy who had landed on Wando Neck; and who, in November, 1711, accompanied Col. James Moore†‡ in his expedition to North Carolina against the Tuscaroras.‡*

Sumter continued in St. Mark's Parish, and the following grants of land to him prior to 1775 appear of record:

1,000 acres on the north side of the Santee, granted 27th November, 1770.

†Mortgage book, 3B, office of Historical Commission, Columbia, S. C.
‡Probate Court records, Charleston, 1767-1771, p. 26.
**Mortgage book, 3A, p. 462, office of Historical Commission.
††Mortgage book, 3C, p. 18.
‡‡M. C. R., Charleston, book Z, No. 3, p. 267.
*†Probate Court, Charleston, book MM, p. 79.
*Ibid., book 1774-1778, p. 410.
†‡McCrady says, Vol. 1, p. 499, that he accompanied Col. John Barnwell in his expedition in 1712, but this is an error. Captain Cantey accompaniel Colonel Moore in the later expedition in 1713.
‡*The Captain Cantey may have been John, not William, Cantey—as both seem to have been termed "Captain" at that time.

450 acres in St. Mark's Parish, granted 4th May, 1771.

750 acres on Tawcaw Creek, granted 23d January, 1773.

550 acres on Potato Creek, granted 30th September, 1774.

In 1775 we find him a prosperous and prospering planter and merchant of St. Mark's Parish, in which he had been resident for ten years, and married to a member of one of the oldest families in the province.*

In the year 1775, he entered upon the sphere of public life in the service of South Carolina in which he was to continue for near forty years.

The first organized meeting of the inhabitants of the province of South Carolina held, as in anyway representing the province as a whole to consider measures to act in unison with the other colonies in resistance to the arbitrary actions of the British ministry, was held in Charles Town in July, 1774. This meeting, although sometimes styled a provincial congress, was in no sense such. It was practically the congregating together of whosoever chose to come to the meeting. It originated in a call issued by the inhabitants of Charles Town to the rest of the province for a general provincial meeting. The people were at liberty to elect as many deputies as they chose, or, if they saw fit, to attend in person without sending deputies.

The meeting was begun in Charles Town on the 6th of July, 1774. One hundred and four deputies attended from all parts of the province. It was, however, determined that votes should be given by each person present, and not by representation of sections, and that whoever chose to attend might do so and give his vote. This general meeting sat for three days, adopted certain resolutions, elected deputies to represent the province in the Continental Congress to be held in Philadelphia, and appointed a general committee of ninety-nine persons to continue in authority until the next general meeting.

It is not known if Sumter attended this meeting. There is no known list of persons who did attend, and the informal character of the meeting itself would seem to have precluded any such list being made.†

In November, 1774, this general committee of ninety-nine persons arranged for a general meeting of the inhabitants of the province

*According to the family tradition, Mrs. Sumter died in 1817, a little over 93 years of age.

†Drayton's *Memoirs*, Vol. 1, pp. 112, 126; Ramsay's *Revolution in South Carolina*, Vol. 1, p. 18; Moultrie's *Memoirs*, Vol. 1, p. 10.

by representation—the number of representatives from the different sections of the province being apportioned to an aggregate of one hundred and eighty-four members. To the district lying eastward of the Wateree River was allotted ten representatives, and the Congress was to meet in Charles Town on the 11th of January, 1775.

The Congress met on the day set, and is generally known as the First Provincial Congress. Thomas Sumter was elected as one of the ten delegates from the district east of the Wateree River. The other nine delegates were: Col. Richard Richardson, Joseph Kershaw, Ely Kershaw, Matthew Singleton, William Richardson, Aaron Loocock, William Wilson, Robert Patton and Robert Carter.

The journals of this Congress are not in existence in any extended form, and it is not possible, therefore, to say what part Sumter took in its deliberations. That he was present and did take part would appear from his being selected as one of the committee for the district eastward of the Wateree River to carry into execution the Continental Association, which had been approved and resolved upon by the Congress.*

This Congress adjourned on the 11th January, 1775, but on receipt of the news of the battle of Lexington in May, 1775, the General Committee summoned the Provincial Congress to meet again on the 1st June, 1775.

On the fourth day after its meeting the Provincial Congress determined to provide effective means for the military protection of the province, and to that end resolved to raise three regiments—two regiments of foot and one regiment of cavalry, or rangers.†

The military system of the province at the time was based upon a militia system. The whole province was divided into separate military districts, in which each regiment and company was composed of the arms-bearing population residing in a defined area.‡ The officers had their commissions—as colonel, major, captain, etc., as the case might be, in the militia. The system was compulsory—i. e., upon the exigencies provided for by law this militia was summoned out and was bound to appear and do military duty, but only for a limited time. Like all militia serving without pay (except when actually drafted for service) and in pursuance of a legal duty, it represented a more or less uncertain quantity, and the determination of the Congress to raise these regiments was to provide for a certain fixed military establishment under military discipline to meet the

*Moultrie's *Memoirs*, Vol. 1, p. 45.
†Ibid., p. 64; Ramsay, Vol. 1, p. 34; Drayton, Vol. 1, p. 255.
‡Drayton, Vol. 1, p. 357.

emergency of the impending conflict. The officers of these regiments were then elected by the Provincial Congress. Sumter was not elected an officer at that time. Francis Marion was elected a captain in the Second Regiment, of which William Moultrie was elected colonel. William Thomson was elected lieutenant-colonel of the regiment of rangers, and Moses Kirkland was elected one of the captains in Thomson's regiment of rangers.**

The Provincial Congress adjourned on 22d June, 1775, but before adjournment elected a Council of Safety, composed of thirteen members. To this Council of Safety was given the most ample and enlarged powers for the conduct of the government and the prosecution of the defence of the province. That Sumter was an applicant for a military position at the time would appear from the following circumstances:

In July, 1775, William Henry Drayton and the Rev. William Tennent were sent by the Council of Safety as commissioners to the back country to endeavor to quiet and appease the very serious condition of unrest and disaffection to the revolutionary administration and its measures which existed among the people in the upper and back country.

The commissioners left Charles Town early in August, 1775, and on August 7 addressed a communication to the Council of Safety from the Congaree store, near Granby, in which they say:

> We have consulted with Col. Richardson [Col. Richard Richardson, colonel of the Camden regiment of militia*] touching Mr. Sumter's application to the Council. The Colonel readily approved not only of the measure, but of the man, notwithstanding Kirkland [a disaffected Tory, who had been a Whig] recommended him as his successor in the company of rangers, which he has so treacherously quitted and attempted to disband. The Colonel nevertheless, from his seeming connection with Kirkland, purposes to keep a sharp eye upon Mr. Sumter's conduct.†

To this the Council of Safety replied on the 13th August, 1775:

> We think it best to postpone the consideration of a military appointment for Mr. Sumpter until your return, or till we more clearly understand what duty he proposes to take upon himself and upon what consideration.‡

In the minutes of the Provincial Congress, which sat in February, 1776, he appears as Captain Sumter. He was then a captain in Richardson's regiment of militia, the St. Mark's Parish Regiment.

*Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 65.
**Drayton, Vol. 1, p. 308.
†Gibbes's *Documentary History*, 1764-1776, p. 129.
‡*South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 1, p. 131.

The position of affairs in the back country had become so threatening in November, 1775, that Col. Richard Richardson had been ordered to march to the assistance of Major Andrew Williamson, who was then actually besieged at Ninety Six by the Tory insurgents. Colonel Richardson was in command of the army, which, in addition to his own regiment and other bodies of militia, included Col. William Thomson's regiment of rangers. This advance of Colonel Richardson was entirely successful. All armed opposition was put down, the insurrection crushed and the leaders of the insurgents taken, while their followers were largely disarmed. The campaign was carried on under circumstances of uncommon exposure and hardship, so as to give it the name of the "Snow Campaign," but so successful was its result that the Provincial Congress in March, 1776, presented their thanks to Colonel Richardson and the officers and men under his command, for the important and signal services they had rendered.* On this campaign Capt. Thomas Sumter was constituted, by Colonel Richardson, adjutant-general, and Major Joseph Kershaw was appointed major of brigades, commissary-general and treasurer.† Drayton says:

> All of which appointments, were conducted and filled by the two above named officers, in a manner highly honorable to themselves; and advantageously for the public service.‡

A new election had been held for members of the Provincial Congress in August, 1775, and Thomas Sumter was again elected as a delegate from the district eastward of the Wateree River—thus becoming a member of the Second Provincial Congress. This Provincial Congress met on November 1, 1775, and in November, 1775, raised a regiment of artillery, constituting the fourth regular regiment in the service of the province.**

The Provincial Congress adjourned on the 30th November, 1775, to meet again on the 1st February, 1776, having elected a new Council of Safety, with powers still more enlarged than the former. The Provincial Congress having reassembled on the 1st February, 1776, on the 22d February augmented their military establishment by raising two rifle regiments—thus making a total of six regiments in the military establishment. Thomas Sumter was elected lieutenant-colonel commandant of the second of these regiments, being the sixth regiment in order of the whole. At the same time William

*Drayton, Vol. 2, p. 137.
†Ibid., p. 135.
‡Ibid., p. 135.
**Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 93.

Henderson was appointed major of this second regiment of riflemen.††

In April, 1776, the Second Provincial Congress, of which Sumter was a member as a delegate from the district east of the Wateree River, resolved itself into the General Assembly of the State and adopted a full form of government—executive, legislative and judicial—and elected and appointed the president, council, judges and other proper officers to carry on the government, and, after providing for the election of a General Assembly to be held in October, 1776, adjourned on the 11th April, 1776.

The attack on Charles Town in June, 1776, found Sumter, with his regiment, as part of the defensive force in the city. Whilst Col. William Moultrie, of the Second Regiment, was in command of the fort on Sullivan's Island, which became the object of the British attack, Colonel Thomson, of the Third Regiment, was placed in command of a force on the eastern end of the island to hold that part of the island and prevent Sir Henry Clinton, who was with a large British force on Long Island (now called the Isle of Palms), from crossing over to Sullivan's Island. Colonel Sumter appears to have been stationed along the mainland, from Haddrell's Point (now Mount Pleasant) towards Long Island to repel any attempted crossing of the enemy from Long Island to the mainland.* Of the force so stationed, consisting of his own regiment, with detachments from other regiments, he seems to have been in command.†

As the conflict that took place on the 28th June, 1776, was confined to the attack by the fleet of Fort Moultrie, and the skirmish between Colonel Thomson's force and the enemy on Long Island, Colonel Sumter had no active part in it.

In August, 1776, Gen. Charles Lee undertook an expedition to East Florida with the expectation of easily taking possession of St. Augustine. He was allowed the assistance of the military establishment of South Carolina. Detachments from the four first regiments accompanied him on the 11th August, 1776.‡ The remainder of the troops, including Sumter's regiment, followed. The expedition did not proceed beyond Savannah.** There General Lee received, in September, an express, calling him northward, whither he departed at once, expressing before he left his high sense of the

††Moultrie, Vol. 2, p. 124; Drayton, Vol. 2, p. 175.
*Moultrie, Vol. 1, pp. 142, 150-155.
†*Year Book*, Charleston, 1898, pp. 383-384.
‡Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 185.
**Charleston Year Book, 1889, p. 233; Drayton, Vol. 2, p. 335.

conduct and behavior of the officers of the South Carolina troops.‡ These troops suffered terribly from sickness incurred in the expedition to Georgia, whence they were gradually withdrawn.

In June and July, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution to take upon the Continental military establishment all troops upon the regular establishments of the colonies. In pursuance of this action of Congress, the General Assembly of South Carolina, on 20th September, 1776, transferred to the Continental Establishment the six regiments of regulars. This included Colonel Sumter's regiment. All the officers of these regiments exchanged their commissions hitherto held from the province for commissions in the Continental service of the same grade, entering the Continental line as youngest officer of their respective ranks.* Sumter, therefore, became a colonel in the Continental service, his commission ranking as of that date.

Exactly when Sumter had received his commission as colonel does not appear. He was originally, in February, 1776, appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Sixth Regiment.† There is no distinct mention of his appointment as colonel, but inasmuch as the orders of the time designating him to sit in courts-martial and referring to him for other duties, refer to him as Colonel Sumter,—and these references are in the military order books of the time, and must be presumed to denote rank and precedence with military exactness.—there can be no doubt he had received his commission.‡‡

At the same time there is mentioned Lieutenant-Colonel Henderson, of the Sixth Regiment. If Henderson, who had been originally appointed major, was later lientenant-colonel, Sumter, who commanded the same regiment, was evidently colonel.**

On the 26th September, 1776, Francis Marion, then major of the Second Regiment, received his commission as lieutenant-colonel of that regiment.††

Sumter, therefore, ranked Marion by seniority of promotion in the Continental line. Neither of them seems ever to have received any higher rank in the Continental service.

In 1777 the command of the troops in South Carolina, after the

‡Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 186; Drayton, Vol. 2, p. 386.

*Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 187; McCrady, Vol. 3, p. 298; Drayton, Vol. 2, p. 383.

†Ramsay's Rev., Vol. 1, p. 52.

‡‡Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 195; *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 7, pp. 137, 196, 197, 201; Vol. 8, p. 84.

**Ibid., Vol. 8, pp. 20, 73; Charleston Year Book for 1895, pp. 335, 337, 339, 341, 342.

††Charleston Year Book for 1895, p. 332; Drayton, Vol. 2, p. 337; Gibbes' *Documentary History*, Vol. 2, p. 45.

departure of General Lee and Gen. James Moore, devolved upon Gen. Robert Howe, who, upon information that the enemy were about to invade Georgia, went off to Savannah, where he was followed by a strong detachment of the Continental troops in South Carolina, and General Sumter, with his regiment, must have been part of it, as in March, 1777, his regiment was in Savannah, whence they returned some time in June.

In December, 1777, Sumter was in Charles Town, as on the 13th December he sat as a member of a council of war to pass upon the question whether detachments from the Continental regiments could with propriety be sent on the proposed expedition. In the names of the officers composing the council he is styled "Colonel Sumpter," whereas Elliott and Marion, who were also members, are styled "Lieut. Col."†

Sumter seems to have continued with his regiment on service in and around Charles Town, for his regiment and himself are mentioned until April, 1778, in an order book of the First Regiment which has been published, and in Moultrie's letters. The last reference we have to him at this period is in a letter from General Moultrie to General Howe, dated April 10, 1778, wherein Sumter's regiment is mentioned as being in Charles Town.* The order book of the First Regiment refers to the regiment as in Charles Town 5th February, 1778.‡ From that date until after the fall of Charles Town in 1780 we find no mention of him in military service. He is not mentioned in any of the military operations during the last half of 1778, or in 1779, or the first half of 1780.

The late Gen. Wilmot G. DeSaussure prepared a list of the names of the officers who served in the South Carolina regiments on the Continental Establishment. This list was printed by order of the Legislature of South Carolina in 1886, and republished in the Year Book of the City of Charleston for 1893. In this list it is stated that he resigned on September 23, 1778. No authority for this statement is given. The list gives his rank as lieutenant-colonel of the Sixth Regiment, which is evidently a mistake, as he was a full colonel. McCrady, in his history, states that domestic affliction having come upon him in the loss of all his children but one, the inactivity of the service at the time induced him to resign in September, 1777.**

†Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 190.
*Ibid., 205.
‡*South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 7, p. 20.
**McCrady, Vol. 3, p. 565. Evidently a misprint for 1778.

However all this may be, in February, 1780, the Continental Congress resolved to reduce the five infantry regiments on the Establishment in South Carolina to three. The five regiments before known, respectively, as the First, Second, Third, Fifth and Sixth, were combined and reduced to three, and the officers named were: Col. C. C. Pinckney to the First, Lieutenant-Colonel Marion to the Second and Colonel Thomson to the Third, with Henderson as lieutenant-colonel of the Third. The Fourth Regiment—the artillery regiment—does not seem to have been included in the reduction.

Before that date Colonel Sumter must have ceased to hold any active office in the Continental service and to have retired to the care of his private affairs—to reappear later for the most eminent part of his career.†

On the 12th April, 1780, Lieutenant-Colonel Tarleton, at the head of the British cavalry, surprised and practically destroyed the American cavalry, commanded by General Huger, at Monck's Corner. On 12th May Charles Town had been surrendered to the British, under Sir Henry Clinton, carrying with this surrender the entire regular American army in South Carolina. On the 6th May Tarleton had again surprised and defeated the remnants of the American cavalry at Lenud's Ferry, on the Santee. The only organized body of American troops left in South Carolina was a force of about 350 Continentals, under Colonel Buford, of Virginia, who, after the fall of Charles Town, was in full retreat towards North Carolina. Tarleton pursued him with great celerity—came up with him at Waxhaws, in the present Lancaster County, and, although having a much inferior force, attacked at once and practically destroyed Buford's entire force.—Tarleton's troops refusing quarter, and continuing the massacre after surrender in a way that gave proverbial force to the term "Tarleton's quarters."

The effect of this succession of defeats was to practically terminate armed resistance in South Carolina. The entire State lay, as it seemed, prostrate and helpless at the mercy of the enemy.

On the 4th June, 1780, Sir Henry Clinton wrote from his headquarters in Charles Town that he could assert that there were few men in South Carolina who were not either his prisoners or in arms with him.

This was true. Every Continental organization had been captured or dispersed. The militia was stunned and despondent at

†General Howe in a letter to General Moultrie, dated Sunberry, Ga., December 8, 1778, mentions Colonel Henderson's regiment. Moultrie, Vol. 1, 249.

home, waiting each man to see what would be the next step. The only armed men in the field were the British troops and their Tory sympathizers, who now gathered, organized and began to assert themselves. It was the lowest ebb of the tide.

In his pursuit of Buford, Tarleton passed through Clermont, now the region around Stateburg, in Sumter County. In his passage the British went to the plantation of Sumter and burned his house, turning his family out of doors. In the preface of some verses on Sumter, published in the *Charleston Courier* on 14th November, 1863, the writer states that General Sumter was roused from sleep by his servants on the approach of the British and took shelter in a thicket, within a few hundred yards of his family mansion, and from that place he saw his family expelled from the dwelling, which was then set on fire and destroyed.

McCrady, in his history, says he left his house a few hours before Tarleton reached his plantation and escaped into North Carolina, and that Tarleton, on reaching Sumter's plantation and finding he was gone, burnt his house.*

Buford's force had been destroyed on the 29th May, 1780. Within less than two months thereafter, viz., about the middle of July, Sumter returned from North Carolina and established a camp on Clem's Creek, in the present Lancaster County. This camp represented the first organized force in the State formed after Buford's defeat. There had preceded it conflicts between Whigs and Tories, but these had been conflicts between parties gathered, so to say, for the occasion and which dispersed when the occasion was over. Sumter's camp represented an attempt to create a continuing body on the basis of a military organization. He held at this time, apparently, no commission which gave him any legal right to control the organization so effected by him. Their organization was purely voluntary and equally so was their selection of Sumter as a leader. It was the recognition of his capability and not of any legal right.† After the formation of this camp it was not long before the number of Sumter's command was swelled by the accession of Whigs from all parts, so that he soon had near 500 men under his command. Of stores, supplies, arms and ammunition they were at first nearly destitute.

*McCrady, Vol. 3, p. 365. Ramsay says: "In a little time after he had forsaken his house a detachment of the British turned his family out of doors, burned the house and everything that was in it." Ramsay Rev., Vol. 2, p. 130.

†Moultrie, Vol. 2, p. 214; Ramsay's Rev., Vol. 2, p. 130.

Says Moultrie, in his *Memoirs*:

They sometimes began an action with not more than three rounds per man, and were obliged to wait to be supplied with more by the fall of their friends or enemies in battle. When they proved victorious they supplied themselves with arms and ammunition from the killed and wounded.†

And Ramsay states, with more particularity:

His followers were in a great measure unfurnished with arms and ammunition, and they had no magazines from which they might draw a supply. The iron tools on the neighboring farms were worked up for their use by common blacksmiths into rude weapons of war. They supplied themselves in part with bullets by melting the pewter with which they were furnished by private housekeepers. They sometimes came to battle when they had not three rounds a man, and some were obliged to keep at a distance till by the fall of others they were supplied with arms. When they proved victorious they were obliged to rifle the dead and wounded of their arms and ammunition to equip them for their next engagement. At the head of these volunteers Col. Sumpter penetrated into South Carolina and recommenced a military opposition to the British, after it had been suspended for about six weeks.*

This initiation of organized resistance was made at a time when the inhabitants of the State had generally abandoned all idea and effort to further armed opposition, and to Sumter is due the credit. Action soon followed organization.

The British had established a military station at Rocky Mount, what is now Lancaster County. The commandant at this post sent Capt. Christian Huck—the notorious Captain Huck—to repair among the Tories the consequences of the dispersal of a party of them shortly before at Fishing Creek. Huck commanded thirty-five dragoons of Tarleton's legion, twenty mounted infantry of the New York Volunteers and about sixty Tory native militia. He was, therefore, in command of a force of regular British soldiers in addition to militia. Huck in his progress destroyed the forge, furnace and mills at Hill's Iron Works, and advanced, destroying the country and committing offensive outrages on inoffensive inhabitants until, on the 12th July, he had taken post on Williamson's plantation, in the present York County. Here in the early morning Huck was attacked by a detachment of volunteers from Sumter's camp and, after a short engagement, Huck was killed and his command entirely dispersed.‡ The British lost between thirty and forty killed and wounded. The Americans lost one man killed.

†Moultrie, Vol. 2, p. 214.
*Ramsay's Rev., Vol. 2, p. 130.
‡Moultrie, Vol. 2, p. 217; Ramsay's Rev., Vol. 2, p. 135; McCrady, Vol. 3, p. 597.

The effect of this success was great. It has been well characterized as one of the turning-points in the Revolution.† It was the first success gained over the royal forces since their landing for the investment of Charles Town. It was a success won by an organized force of Americans over an enemy composed, in part, at least, of regular British troops. Its result was to reinforce Sumter's force by 600 additional men.‡

The effect upon the representatives of the royal cause was equally great. They had considered the State practically conquered and armed resistance at an end. From this pleasant dream the fight at Williamson's and the death of Captain Huck awakened them.

They found themselves faced by an army, although small, in organized shape and led the commanders who were evidently in earnest and knew their business.

Among the British commanders who had asserted in their official dispatches that the inhabitants from every quarter had declared their allegiance to the King, and that there were few men in South Carolina that were not either prisoners or in arms for the King, this unlooked-for impediment of a military force in arms against the King, which had actually defeated and dispersed a force composed in part of regular British troops, flushed with continuous success—in short, this impediment, named Thomas Sumter, "roused all the passions which disappointed ambition can inspire." They were "overwhelmed with astonishment and filled with indignation."*

Sumter—essentially a leader of action—did not long remain quiescent. On the 1st August, 1780, he made a spirited attack upon the British entrenched post at Rocky Mount. The post was too strong to be carried without artillery and Sumter's assault was repulsed.**

A few days later, on the 6th August, 1780, he attacked the garrison at Hanging Rock. That garrison consisted of 500 men, consisting of 160 of the infantry of Tarleton's Legion, the Prince of Wales' American Regiment, part of Colonel Browne's corps of provincials and Colonel Bryan's North Carolina Loyalists. The whole was under the command of Major Carden, of the Prince of Wales' Regiment. The attacking force numbered about 800. The result of the action was not conclusive. The British camp was taken and plundered, but the American force finally withdrew,

†McCrady, Vol. 3, p. 599.
‡Ramsay's Rev., Vol. 2, pp. 135, 137; McCrady, Vol. 3, p. 600.
*Ramsay Rev., Vol. 2, p. 131.
**Moultrie, Vol. 2, p. 219; Ramsay Rev., Vol. 2, p. 136.

leaving the field in possession of the British, whose loss exceeded that of the attacking forces.

Within the space of a month the command under Sumter had had three engagements with British regular troops, and in each case the Americans had been the attacking party.

While these operations of Sumter—contemporaneously with similar operations, but on a smaller scale, by other partisan leaders—were in progress, an army was on its way from the northward to assist the hard-pressed American forces in the South. This army consisted of about 1,200 Continental soldiers, composed of regiments from the Maryland and Delaware lines, and was under the command of Baron De Kalb, but on the 25th July De Kalb was superseded in his command by Gen. Horatio Gates, the so-called hero of Saratoga. General Gates, with additional reinforcements, crossed the South Carolina line on the 4th August, and, having formed a junction with the North Carolina militia under Governor Caswell, pressed down towards Camden, where the British army lay. There Lord Cornwallis had himself taken command and was present in person. Sumter, who, with the force under him, had reached Gates, heard that a large convoy, with clothing and stores for the British army at Camden, was on its way to that point by the road between McCord's Ferry, on the Congaree, and the ferry over the Wateree, about a mile from Camden. He proposed to Gates that he should intercept this convoy. Gates assented and sent to join him in his attack on the convoy a detachment of 400 Continental regulars, with two brass field pieces.

Sumter's attack was made on the 15th August and was wholly successful. The entire convoy and its guard were captured, and Sumter, with his prizes and prisoners in his possession, commenced his retreat up the western side of the Wateree River.

Gates, without waiting for Sumter's return, had advanced towards Cornwallis, who, in like manner, was advancing himself. The two armies joined battle near Camden on the 16th August, and the result was one of the most complete defeats ever inflicted upon an American army.

Immediately after the battle and when Gates was in full flight, outstripping all his followers in the race, Cornwallis turned his attention to Sumter. On the morning of the 17th August he dispatched Tarleton in pursuit of Sumter. Tarleton, pressing with his accustomed celerity and vigor, came up with Sumter about m'day on the 18th, and, finding Sumter's men in camp entirely

off their guard and expecting the approach of no enemy, Tarleton at once formed his line and charged the camp. The surprise was complete. Little or no resistance was made and the whole camp was reduced to a precipitate flight. All the stores captured from the British were recaptured, all the British prisoners taken by Sumter were released, and Sumter's entire command was killed, taken or dispersed. He himself barely escaped with his life, rode off without saddle, hat or coat, and reached Charlotte two days later completely unattended.

This surprise is the one great blot on Sumter's career as a military commander. It seems to have been due to carelessness of the grossest military kind in neglecting the proper precautions to guard against surprise and to protect his force if attacked. At the same time it must be remembered that Sumter commanded a force of both officers and men who had little experience of regular warfare, and had not been taught that the neglect in war of what may appear to be small precautions may entail destruction. It was impossible for Sumter in command to attend to all the details of guard mount. He could give orders, and it is probable that so far as the surprise was concerned that was due to disobedience of orders and neglect on the part of his subordinate officers. Tarleton says: "Some explanation received after the action greatly diminished the mistake which Colonel Sumter seemed to have committed." He had sent out patrols, but they had not gone far enough to discover the British approach, and on demanding the cause of two shots fired by his videttes, who were killed by the British, was told by the officer in charge of the advanced sentries that it was the militia firing at cattle.

As a commander, however, Sumter can not be acquitted of blame in his halting where he did. He had been warned of Gates' complete defeat. He knew of Tarleton and his restless energy, and he should have done as Morgan did later, after the battle of Cowpens, and never have halted or stayed until he had reached a point of absolute safety.

Ramsay, in his *Revolution in South Carolina*, attributes the defeat to the fatigue of the Americans. He says:

> The Americans, having been for four days without sleep or provisions, were more inclined to the calls of nature than attentive to her first law—self-preservation. Col. Sumpter had taken every prudent precaution to prevent a surprise, but his videttes were so fatigued they neglected their duty.*

*Ramsay Rev., Vol. 2, p. 153.

Crushing defeats had thus, in quick succession, been inflicted upon both Gates and Sumter. While Gates, however, seems to have been completely overcome and incapable of rallying to meet his emergency, the effect on Sumter was to stimulate his energies.

Almost immediately he gathered together such of his troops as had escaped, and within a very brief space of time had established his camp again at Clem's Creek.

Whilst there engaged in reorganizing his command, Col. James Williams, who had been appointed a brigadier-general of militia by Governor Rutledge, appeared at Sumter's camp and claimed by virtue of his rank to take command.

His right to do so Sumter's men flatly refused to admit. They were volunteers and Sumter had been by them selected as their commander. In addition to this, the men and officers under Sumter had strong personal grounds of objection to Williams, whom they neither liked nor respected.

Williams still insisting upon the effect of his commission, a council of the officers serving under Sumter was called to consider the effect of Williams's commission on Sumter's command.

At this point it was learned that Tarleton and Rawdon were on the march against Sumter's camp. Sumter crossed the Catawba and after a slight skirmish with Rawdon's advance, retreated to a point of greater safety—higher up the river.

It was there determined by the officers and men of Sumter's command to send a delegation to Governor Rutledge remonstrating against Williams's commission as superseding Sumter. The delegates were officers acting as colonels under Sumter. In the meanwhile it was agreed that Sumter should retire during the absence of the delegation and that Colonel Lacey should take his place in command.

To this agreement Sumter, with true devotion to public interests and lack of selfish personal assertion, assented.

Whilst Sumter was in this retirement Colonel Lacey was informed of the movement against Maj. Patrick Ferguson, of the British army, and requested to join and co-operate. He marched at once with Sumter's command, and on the 6th October, 1780, joined the forces under Campbell, Shelby, Cleveland and Sevier, near King's Mountain.

The next day, the 7th October, took place the battle of King's Mountain and the death of Major Ferguson, with the entire defeat and capture of his force. The South Carolina force from

Sumter's camp was commanded by Colonel Lacey. Colonel Williams was present and took part also in the battle in command of a small force of his own and was killed, and any further contest on his part as to Sumter's right to command ended.

The delegation of officers had in the meantime met Governor Rutledge at Hillsborough, and the effect of their representations was such that on the 6th October, 1780, Governor Rutledge issued a commission to Sumter as brigadier-general, and placed him in command of all the militia of this State.*

Soon after Sumter's apointment to the rank of brigadier-general, Gen. Francis Marion also received an appointment to the same rank.†

Sumter returned to his command about the 1st November, 1780, and about the 7th crossed the Broad River and pitched his camp near Fishdam Ford. There he had under his command between 500 and 600 men. Lord Cornwallis detached Major Wemyss with his regiment of mounted infantry and some of Tarleton's Legion to attack and defeat Sumter at his camp. An officer with five men were especially detached to penetrate this camp and attack Sumter himself in his tent. Wemyss moved towards his camp and arrived at it at a little after midnight and immediately attacked, but was met by the Americans, who were prepared, and after a short and bloody conflict the British were repulsed with great loss, and retreated, leaving their wounded. Among these was Major Wemyss himself, who was badly wounded and captured. Sumter himself, it is said, was asleep in his tent at the time and his orderly neglecting to arouse him at the first alarm, the British detail assigned to seek him were at his tent before he put on his coat. He ran out, crossed the fence and escaped to the river bank.

As soon as Cornwallis learned of this reverse he sent an express for Tarleton, who was then in pursuit of Marion and attempting to force him to battle. Fatigued and discomfited at his failure to make any contact with that elusive commander when he received the express summoning him back to follow up Sumter, he is said to have made use of the exclamation which gave to both Sumter and Marion the designations, or nicknames, which immediately and ever since have attached to them.

"Come on, my boys! Let us go back and we will soon find the gamecock; but as for this d—d old fox, the devil himself could not catch him."

*McCrady, Vol. 3, p. 813.
†Ibid., p. 815.

The designation of Sumter was certainly most appropriate. If, in the language of the pit, he had received the gaff severely at Fishing Creek he was immediately back in the pit as "game" and ready for fight as when he began.

Sumter, after the repulse of Wemyss's command, moved down the Enoree, and on the 18th November was at Williams's plantation, on Little River. There he received information of Tarleton's approach. Tarleton, moving with his accustomed energy and celerity, under Cornwallis's instructions to crush Sumter, advanced with his own legion, the light infantry and Sixty-third British Regiment under his command. On the information of his approach Sumter moved up and stationed himself at Blackstock's, on the south side of Tyger River, in the present Union County. There he made his arrangements to meet Tarleton's attack. His force consisted of 420 men.

Tarleton, leaving his light infantry to march, pushed on with his mounted men and reached Sumter about 4 o'clock in the afternoon with about 250 men. His force was thus much inferior to his adversary's, but that did not daunt Tarleton, whose continuous course of success seemed to have made him think that numbers did not count against him. He had defeated Sumter at Fishing Creek three months before, with inferior numbers, and he did not hesitate to try it again. He immediately attacked, but met with as immediate and bloody repulse. The British loss in killed and wounded was near 200. The American loss was one killed and three wounded. Unfortunately for the American cause, one of these three was Sumter himself. While superintending the battle and leading the counter-attack he was badly wounded in the right shoulder. To his aide-de-camp he requested that his sword be put in the scabbard and that a man be directed to lead his horse off the field, telling him to say nothing about his wound, but to request Colonel Twiggs to take command. The Americans remained in possession of the field. As Tarleton did not retreat far, however, and the information was received that he would be immediately reinforced by the Seventy-first British Regiment and the legion and light infantry, Colonel Twiggs crossed the Tyger River that night to a position where he would be unassailable. Tarleton next morning could take the empty field, but nothing more, and he he did not attempt to follow up his enemy, but retired to Winnsboro. He claimed the result as a victory, but no succeeding British historian has done so.* The most gratifying result to the

*The British historian, Stedman, following the account of this battle given by Col. Roderick Mackenzie in his strictures on Tarleton's published history of

British commander was the wound of Sumter, which incapacitated him for any further immediate action. Cornwallis testifies to this when he writes Tarleton:

> I shall be very glad to hear that Sumter is in a condition to give us no further trouble; he certainly has been our greatest plague in this country.

This occasion was the last time that the two antagonists—Sumter and Tarleton—faced each other in conflict.

When Sumter had sufficiently recovered from his wound to take the field again Tarleton had left South Carolina, accompanying Cornwallis northward on that march which terminated at Yorktown.

Sumter was the first military commander in South Carolina since Huger's defeat who showed his willingness to meet Tarleton and fight him, and was also the first commander in South Carolina at whose hands Tarleton suffered an unquestioned reverse. The two were alike in many of their characteristics—their energy, decision, quickness of movement and readiness to fight. If Sumter had suffered the worst defeat of the two in the affair at Fishing Creek, yet he could feel he had recovered from it and had met and in his turn defeated Tarleton, who has been pronounced a born cavalry leader and the best commander of his time in the British army. Fishing Creek was paid for later when, on the 17th January, 1781, Tarleton left the field of battle at Cowpens in as full flight as Gates left the field at Camden.

The wound received by Sumter was so severe as to practically debar him from active service in the field for near five months. He still retained his command and lent his aid and advice in consultation to General Gates in the command of the Southern army. On the 3d November, 1780, Greene writes him that: "I am impatient to hear of your recovery and of seeing you at the head of the militia."* But as late as 9th March, 1781, Sumter writes that he has but little use of his right hand, and writing was very painful to him. Whilst in this enforced retirement, but still retaining his command, a difference arose between Sumter and Gen. Daniel Morgan, then in command of a detachment of the Southern army. Into the merits of this controversy it is impossible in this sketch to

the campaign, gives the victory to the Americans, who held the field and all the British wounded, viz.: "The wounded of the British detachment were left to the mercy of the enemy, and it is but doing bare justice to General Sumter to declare that the strictest humanity took place upon the present occasion; they were supplied with every comfort in his power."

*General Washington, in writing to General Greene, remarks that General Sumter's brilliant action deserved great commendation. (*Writings of George Washington*, Vol. 7, p. 360.)

go. The point of controversy was Sumter's refusal to allow officers under his immediate command to receive orders from Morgan direct, instead of being transmitted through himself. They both held the rank of brigadier-general,—Morgan in the Continental service and Sumter in the State service,—and Sumter's commission appears to have antedated Morgan's. Both were men of impervious nature, and both seem, in this matter, to have displayed temper, but fortunately the occurrence did not take place in a time or manner to affect injuriously the public service.

On the 17th January, 1781, Morgan defeated Tarleton in the decisive battle of the Cowpens, and, following that event, Greene retreated before Lord Cornwallis to Hillsborough, in North Carolina, being joined by Morgan's command on the way, and South Carolina was again left without any Continetal force within her borders.

On 30th January, Greene wrote to Sumter:

> I have the pleasure to hear by Gen. Morgan that you are almost well enough to take the field. Nothing will afford me greater satisfaction than to see you at the head of the militia again; and I can assure you I shall take a pleasure in giving you every opportunity to exercise that talent of enterprise which has already rendered you the terror of your enemies and the idol of your friends.

Notwithstanding the continuing effect of his wound Sumter took the field again early in February. Greene had written him on the 3d February, telling him of his anxiety to have him back as soon as his health would permt, and informing him that when the militia could be embodied, whether employed in South Carolina or with the Continental army, he was to have the command of the whole.

Cornwallis having advanced into North Carolina, Greene retreating before him, Sumter cut in behind the British general, striking direct at his posts and communications with Charles Town. Having collected his force, about 280 men, he marched on the 16th February, 1781, against one of the main posts of the enemy at Granby, on the Congaree River, about three miles below the junction of the Broad and Saluda. He immediately attacked the post on the 19th February, but Lord Rawdon, having advanced from Camden with his full force for its relief, Sumter was unable to capture it, although he succeeded in destroying its stores. Compelled by Lord Rawdon's approach to raise the siege of Granby, Sumter marched immediately against the next British post at Thomson's, near the site of Fort Motte, in Orangeburg County. Finding the post too strong for assault, he invested it, and on the 23d February, whilst continuing the investment, he attacked a British detachment escorting a convoy of

army supplies and clothing intended for Lord Rawdon's army. This detachment was completely defeated and the entire convoy taken. The stores were placed upon boats and sent down the river to a lower point, where Sumter was to meet the boats with his troops. Lord Rawdon, hearing of the attack on the post at Thomson's, had marched to its relief, and, on the 24th, his approach compelled Sumter to retire. Through the treachery of the pilot the boats with the captured stores had been carried within the range of the guns of the British in Fort Watson, at Wright's Bluff, on the Santee River, and were recaptured. Informed of this, Sumter crossed the Santee and, on the 27th February, assaulted the fort, which had just been reinforced by the arrival of Colonel Watson and 400 provincial light infantry. The fort was too strong to be taken and his attack was repulsed. Sumter then moved to the High Hills of Santee. Within less than ten days he had attacked three strong posts, had captured and dispersed a strong detachment in charge of a convoy, and had compelled Lord Rawdon twice to move with his whole force to protect his posts.

After remaining a few days in the High Hills, Sumter retired to the Waxhaws, by way of Black River. On this march he was, on the 6th March, attacked by Major Fraser, with a considerable body of British regulars and Tory militia, but the attack was repulsed, the British compelled to retreat, and Sumter was not further molested.

From there he retired to the "New Acquisition,"* still suffering from his old wound, for he writes to General Marion on the 28th:

> I write in so much pain as hardly to know my own meaning or read what I write.

There he occupied himself in efforts to embody troops upon the State establishment, so as to give some assurance of a definite force to be relied upon, and seems to have succeeded in raising three small regiments of regular State troops to be employed in constant service for ten months.

The battle of Guilford Court House, between the opposing armies commanded by General Greene and Lord Cornwallis, was fought on 15th March, 1781. The result was the retreat of Lord Cornwallis to Wilmington, leaving the upper part of North Carolina wholly unoccupied and the way open for Greene to march to South Carolina if he saw fit. The question then for Greene was whether

*That portion of the State lying outside of the Catawba Reservation north of the 35 degree of latitude and east of the present line between Spartanburg and Greenville counties.

he should follow Cornwallis and oppose his advance into Virginia or, leaving that advance to be met by the State forces of Virginia and such reinforcements as might be sent from the northward, march into South Carolina and destroy the British occupation there. To whom the credit is due of his final determination to adopt the latter course does not now matter. It is history that he did adopt it and the result justified the wisdom of his decision.

Sumter had been placed by Governor Rutledge in command of all the militia of the State,* and on General Greene's determination to return to South Carolina he wrote to Sumter, asking him to give orders to the other militia commanders—Pickens and Marion—to collect all the militia they could to co-operate.

Greene moved on Camden and Sumter took post between Camden and Ninety Six, so as to clear that country from all interferences with Greene's advance.

On the 25th of April the battle of Hobkirk's Hill, between General Greene and Lord Rawdon, was fought, resulting in a repulse of the Americans.

Sumter continued in the effort to collect men and provisions under Greene's instructions, still suffering from his old wound, for he writes to Greene on the 6th May:

> My hand is still very stiff; my shoulder very uneasie, & I fear as the weather grows warmer shall be obliged to retire.

Notwithstanding this, Sumter soon displayed his old activity. On 10th May Lord Rawdon abandoned Camden and began his retreat to the Low Country. Before this, however, Sumter had moved. He first repulsed a party of Tories on the Tyger River and then, dividing his forces into detachments, he swept through the disaffected settlements in the country. On the 2d May, 1781, he arrived before Granby, and leaving Col. Thomas Taylor with a party to invest that post, he rapidly advanced on Orangeburgh, which he captured on the 11th May, with supplies at the post.

Lord Rawdon, having abandoned Camden on the 11th May, finding his posts taken and his communication destroyed, fell back, first to the Eutaws and then to Monck's Corner Sumter proposed to Greene that, uniting all his forces, including the commands of Sumter, Marion and Lee, they should boldly give battle to the British and seek to destroy Rawdon's army. Greene, however, thought the chances too hazardous to venture the conflict, and Lord Rawdon was allowed to

*McCrady, Vol. 4, pp. 164, 165.

pursue his retreat and Greene turned his attention to the investment of the British fort at Ninety Six, whilst Sumter scoured the country down to Dorchester, taking away horses and everything in the way of transportation that could assist the British.*

Lord Rawdon, having been heavily reinforced from Charles Town, now advanced to the relief of Ninety Six, and Sumter, then posted at Granby, moved slowly back before him and swung around General Greene above the Broad River, near Winnesboro, whither Greene retreated upon the approach of Lord Rawdon and after the defeat of his assault on Ninety Six, and crossed the country to the Wateree.

Lord Rawdon, leaving a large portion of his force with Colonel Cruger at Ninety Six to bring off the Loyalists of that section, had marched first to Granby and then to Orangeburgh, where he had received reinforcements under Colonel Stuart Greene, having been joined by Sumter and his command, followed Rawdon to Orangeburgh and there remained in position and offered battle. This the British commander did not accept, being very strongly posted, and on the approach of Cruger, with his command from Ninety Six, Greene drew off to the High Hills of Santee. He turned over the command of all the mounted men in his command to Sumter, to whom he devolved the execution of an expedition that the latter had planned. This was the destruction of all the British posts and lines of communication between Orangeburgh and Charles Town.

Sumter proceeded to carry out the agreed plan with his accustomed celerity. Colonel Lee, with his legion, with the co-operation of Col. Wade Hampton and a detachment of Sumter's cavalry, swept down to Dorchester and through Goose Creek up to the very gates of Charles Town. Sumter, with his main body, took the road east of Cooper River to Monck's Corner. On his approach Colonel Coates, the British commander, abandoned Monck's Corner and took post at Biggin Church. This he again abandoned, and, setting fire to all his stores and the church, hastily retreated down the east side of Cooper River to Shubrick's. Here he took post. When Sumter arrived he immediately attacked, but Coates was too strongly posted, and after a stout combat of some three hours the Americans withdrew, having exhausted every charge of ammunition. Relief from Charles Town being near at hand for the British and Lord Rawdon's forces reported moving down, Sumter retreated across the Santee and then took post near Friday's Ferry, on the Congaree, whilst Greene established his camp at the High Hills.

*McCrady, Vol. 4, pp. 231, 253.

The result of this expedition under Sumter's command, in addition of the destruction of the enemy's stores, was to demonstrate that the British retained possession of only so much of the country, even in the neighborhood of Charles Town, as their armies actually occupied, and this within a little more than a year since Sumter, on the approach of Tarleton, had abandoned his home to the torch of the enemy.

The old wound of Sumter broke out afresh and he was now compelled to rest for a space from the severe labors of active service. As late as 19th September he was still scarcely able to sign his name.

During the period of this enforced inaction the command of his troops was devolved upon Col. William Henderson, who had been major under Sumter at the formation of the Sixth Regiment in February, 1776, and had commanded that regiment later. Owing to the suffering entailed by his old wound and accompanying indisposition, Sumter was not able to resume his command in time to be present at the battle of Eutaw Springs on the 8th September, 1781, where his troops were under the command of Colonel Henderson.

Sumter was enabled to resume his command in November and co-operated in the general advance, which culminated by the 7th December in the entire British force being confined to Charles Town and the small neck or isthmus between the Cooper and Ashley rivers, Sumter being posted at Orangeburgh.

With this practically terminated Sumter's military service. The State was now practically back in the hands of her citizens. Charles Town alone remained in the hands of the British.

An election was ordered for a new General Assembly, to be held at Jacksonborough in January 1782. That Assembly met on the 18th January, 1782, and soon after it met General Sumter finally resigned his commission and Col. William Henderson was appointed brigadier-general to succeed him.*

General Greene had written him on the 12th December, 1781, to ask if he intended to get into the General Assembly "and have the approbation of the House upon the measures taken to raise State troops. Nothing like the time present, when gratitude is warm and danger not past, to get business of this sort approved."

What Greene referred to was the measure adopted by Sumter to fill up the regiment of State troops he was directed to organize in March, 1781.

*McCrady, Vol. 4, p. 534.

He had then offered certain terms of payment, including a portion of all captured property. These terms were based upon no existing law and their confirmation and the validity of the title of the holders to the captured property depended upon the approval to be given by the General Assembly to the measures taken by Sumter, by the enactment of some law.

To this Sumter answered in a letter full of dignity, under date of 22d December, 1781:

You asked if I did not intend to get into the General Assembly. It is probable I may serve if elected, but as I never have solicited any public appointment I can't think of doing it now.

Notwithstanding I have the matter you have mentioned very much at heart, but if men are lost or callous to every sentiment of gratitude and justice, my weak reasonings, although founded on the strictest equity will not prevail. However, I shall be prepared to make a true and fair representation of matters to the House perhaps the result may prove favorable. I have nothing to urge upon my own account more than to enable me to comply with the promises made to the troops—if they are paid and I am censured my expectations will not be disappointed.*

With this resignation of Sumter terminated his military career. Active hostilities were practically over and the country could then dispense with his services. He, first of all others, had formed a collected body of troops to meet the British invasion when all other organized commands had been captured or dispersed, and this at a time when, apparently, the State had abandoned hope of any successful resistance. From that period in July, 1780, until November, 1781, he had been continuously in active command on field service, save for the enforced retirement due to his wound, and for a great portion of that time, from February, 1781, to November, 1781, he had continued in that active service, although nearly all the time suffering more or less acutely from the severe wound received by him at Blackstock's.

In closing this account of his military career, it is well to give the opinion entertained by those who could judge of his merit and his exploits.

First can be placed the testimony of his superior officer, Gen. Nathanael Greene, as contained in his letters:

January 30, 1781.

Nothing will afford me greater satisfaction than to see you at the head of the militia again, and I can assure you I shall take a pleasure in giving you

*Charleston Year Book for 1899, p. 66.

every opportunity to exercise that talent of enterprise which has already rendered you the terror of your enemies and the idol of your friends.*

February 3, 1781.

I have ever considered it a great misfortune that you was wounded on my first coming to the command.†

May 17, 1781.

It is unnecessary for me to tell you how important your services are to the interest and happiness of this country, and the confidence I have in your abilities and zeal for the good of the service. Your continuing in command will lay the public in general and me in particular under a very great obligation.‡

June 23, 1781.

Col. Polk informs me your health is getting worse and your wound more troublesome. I am sorry on yours, my own and the public's account. It will be a great misfortune.**

December 15, 1781.

Your country, if they have any justice and gratitude, will not fail to bless and reward you for your exertions, made in the darkest hours they ever felt. I shall always bear testimony to your services and won't fail to tell the people how much you did when many others hid their heads.††

He is thus described by Lieut.-Col. Henry Lee, in his *Memoirs*:

Sumter was younger than Marion, larger in frame, better fitted in strength of body to the toils of war, and, like his compeer, devoted to the freedom of his country. His aspect was manly and stern, denoting insuperable firmness and lofty courage. He was not over-scrupulous as a soldier in his use of means, and was apt to make considerable allowance for a state of war. Believing it warranted by the necessity of the case, he did not occupy his mind with critical examination of the equity of his measures or of their bearings upon individuals, but indiscriminately pressed forward to his end—the destruction of his enemy and liberation of his country. In his military character he resembled Ajax, relying more upon the fierceness of his courage than upon the result of unrelaxing vigilance and nicely adjusted combination. Determined to deserve success, he risked his own life and the lives of his associates without reserve. Enchanted with the splendor of victory he would wade through torrents of blood to attain it.‡‡

Major Garden, in his *Anecdotes*, says of him:

In the school of adversity he learnt circumspection and was more than once compelled to fight under the greatest disadvantages. He became ultimately so guarded in his attention to the security of his camp and so happy in the choice of his positions that every attempt to injure him on the part of the

*Charleston Year Book for 1899, p. 79.
†Ibid., p. 80.
‡Ibid., p. 101.
**Ibid., p. 116.
††Ibid., p. 132.
‡‡Lee's *Memoirs*, 3d ed, p. 32.

enemy proved abortive, whilst the enterprises which he conducted were for the most part productive of the most brilliant success. No man was more indefatigable in his efforts to obtain victory; none more ready by the generous exposure of his person and the animating example of intrepidity to deserve it.*

Lord Cornwallis, as we have seen, denominated him "our greatest plague in this country."†

His great adversary, Tarleton, mentions him with more commendation than any of the American officers opposed to him. Referring to the fights at Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock, he says:

The repulses he had sustained did not discourage him or injure his cause. The loss of men was easily supplied and his reputation for activity and courage was fully established by his late enterprising conduct.‡

The Continental Congress of the United States, by a resolution adopted the 13th January, 1781, expressed their appreciation of Sumter's services as follows:

Congress, taking into consideration the eminent services rendered to the United States by Brig.-Gen. Sumter, of South Carolina, at the head of a number of volunteer militia from that and the neighboring States, particularly in the victory obtained over the enemy at the Hanging Rock on the 6th day of August, in the defeat of Major Wemyss and the corps of British infantry and dragoons under his command at Broad River on the 9th day of November, in which the said Major Wemyss was made prisoner, and in the repulse of Lieut.-Col. Tarleton and the British cavalry and infantry under his command at Blackstocks, on Tyger River, on the 20th November last, in each of which actions the gallantry and military conduct of Gen. Sumter and the courage and perseverance of his troops were highly conspicuous, resolved, therefore, that the thanks of Congress be presented to Brig.-Gen. Sumter and the militia aforesaid for such reiterated proofs of their patriotism, bravery and conduct, which entitle them to the highest esteem and confidence of their country, and that the commanding officer of the Southern department do forthwith cause the same to be issued in General Orders and transmitted to Gen. Sumter.

On 27th February, 1783, the express thanks of the Senate of his native State were, by resolution, extended to him for "his eminent and conspicuous service to this country."

Although he had resigned from military service, Sumter still continued to serve his country in a civil capacity.

He was elected in December, 1781, as Senator from the district lying eastward of the Wateree River, and sat as a member of the General Assembly, which held its first session at Jacksonborough. By that Assembly he was, on the 3d January, 1782, elected a member

*Garden's *Anecdotes*, first series, p. 32.
†Tarleton's Campaigns, p. 96.
‡Tarleton's Campaigns, p. 203.

of the Privy Council, but declined serving. He was re-elected Senator from the same district in the fall of 1782 and sat as a member of the General Assembly that met in 1783, and by which he was elected a delegate to represent the State in the Continental Congress.

He was again a member of the General Assembly in 1784, 1785 and 1786. It was in the latter year that the statute for removing the seat of government from Charleston to Columbia was passed. General Sumter advocated the claim of the High Hills of Santee as having the best claim, from health and otherwise, to the location of the future capital of the State, but the Legislature determined upon the present site.

It is stated by Johnson, in his *Traditions of the Revolution*, that "in the discussion a personal dispute arose between General Sumter and Commodore Gillon. Without a message or preconcert, each came the next morning into the House armed with small swords, the weapon usually worn at that time by gentlemen for their defense," but that, after an address from the Speaker, first to the parties and then to the House, the dispute was settled.*

The Constitution of the United States, framed by the General Convention which sat in 1787, was presented to the several States for ratification. General Sumter was a member of the General Assembly of South Carolina in 1788, when the question came before that body in the shape of a resolution calling for the election of a convention to which should be submitted the question of ratification. General Sumter, with Rawlins Lowndes, opposed the call, as he opposed the proposed Constitution ,and after a protracted debate the resolution for calling the convention was adopted by a majority of only one. General Sumter and the entire delegation from his district, i. e., the district lying east of the Wateree River, voted against the resolution.

Notwithstanding this oppostion he was elected a member of the Convention, in which he continued his opposition. He first moved that the consideration of the question be postponed from May, 1788, when the Convention was sitting, until a later date, and this having been voted down, he then, with all the delegation from his district, voted with the minority against ratification.†

With Lowndes and others of the minority he based his opposition upon the ground that the power lodged in the general government by the new Constitution contained the fatal germs of a growth that would overthrow the liberties of the several States.

*Johnson's Traditions, p. 77.
†Elliott's Debates, Vol. 4, pp. 304, 324, 332.

So great was the admiration of his countrymen for, and their confidence in, General Sumter that, although he had been the consistent opponent of the adoption of the new Constitution, he was immediately elected a member of the House of Representatives of the first Congress held under that instrument, and took his seat in May, 1789. He was re-elected in 1790 to the second Congress and sat until March, 1793. He was elected also to the fifth, sixth and seventh Congresses, from 1797 to 1801, when he was elected to the United States Senate and resigned his seat in the House of Representatives. He was elected Senator in 1801, and sat out his term until 1805, when he was re-elected to succeed himself, and sat in the United States Senate until 1810, when he resigned.†

He was an ardent follower and supporter of Mr. Jefferson and an unswerving opponent of the Federalists and all the measures which culminated in the alien and sedition laws of 1798. In the life of General Sumter, in Appleton's *Encyclopedia of American Biography*, it is stated that General Sumter was "a zealous Federalist." No authority is given for this statement, and if we are to be guided by Sumter's action in opposing all Federalist measures and his own declaration he was exactly the opposite. He was an admirer, as well as a supporter, of Mr. Jefferson, and declared the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1798 to embody the true construction of the Constitution.

So close were the relations between Jefferson and himself that on 24th March, 1801, Mr. Jefferson writes him a personal letter, addressing him as "My Dear General," and telling him that he had determined in future to name the secretaries of legation in place of allowing ministers to take a private secretary of their own; that Chancellor Livingston had accepted the mission to France and that he had selected General Sumter's son as the secretary of legation to France, if the appointment would be acceptable to him, and requesting the General to make the proposition to his son.‡

After his resignation General Sumter retired to his private estate, South Mount, near Stateburg, in Sumter District (now County), in the district he had so long and faithfully represented. He was, at the time of his retirement, 76 years old. Although he retired from active public life to the quiet and unostentatious life of a South Carolina planter and country gentleman, he nevertheless continued to take an active interest in all affairs affecting his country.

†Charleston Year Book for 1884, pp. 338, 342.
‡Original MS. letter in possession of Miss M. H. Brownfield.

Before his death the contest between the Federal and State governments, which he presaged in 1788, had become intense. The system of protective tariff inaugurated in 1816, intensified in 1819, carried to greater length in 1824, had culminated in 1828 in a series of statutes which resulted in laying a most burdensome and oppressive taxation upon the Southern portion of the United States. This led to great discontent throughout the South and, in South Carolina especially, to the formation of a party which advocated active measures to nullify statutes they declared to be unjust and unconstitutional invasions of the liberties of the State. Mr. Calhoun was the exponent and leader in the South of this party, which numbered among its warmest supporters General Sumter. He was still in the active possession of his faculties, both physical and mental. His son, Thomas Sumter, Jr., in a letter to his daughter, dated 26th December, 1825, says:

As to the health of your grandfather I saw him yesterday and, in his 88th year, he mounts and rides his horse almost like a young man.

The State's Rights party claimed him as a member, as indeed he himself declared. In 1830 he had written a letter unequivocally denouncing as unconstitutional the Tariff Acts passed by Congress and supporting the construction of the Constitution which reserved to the States, if these rights were invaded by unconstitutional legislation, the power to resist their enforcement or withdraw from the Union. Some contention arose in 1831 as to his position. A newspaper in the State, the Camden *Journal*, published an item stating that he had changed his views. This misstatement was quickly corrected. General Sumter wrote a letter to his grandson, which was published in *The Charleston Mercury* for 2d September, 1831. This letter is written with all the clearness and vigor of his early days. In this letter he ridicules the statement in the Camden *Journal*, declares his views not only unchanged, but to be what they had always been, and calls attention to a letter of his dated 29th October, 1830, which had previously been published and in which he had set out his opinion and convictions.

In this last mentioned letter he had referred to as expressing the true construction of the Constitution, the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1798, and the letter of Mr. Calhoun (the then Vice-President of the United States) maintaining and defending the principle and enforcement of nullification. General Sumter declares in his letter that the principle "that the Legislature, as a sovereign power,

*MS. letter in possession of R. J. Brownfield, Esq.

can nullify the unconstitutional acts of the general government is the primary and principle doctrine of the State's Rights party."

At a meeting of the State's Rights party, held in Charleston in September, 1831, a series of resolutions was adopted thanking General Sumter for his expressed support and declaring that he stood by State's rights then as he did in the hot times of 1798.

This is the last public utterance of the aged soldier and statesman that we find. He died the 1st June, 1832, at his home at South Mount, in Sumter County, the last surviving officer of his rank in the Continental army. Notwithstanding the embittered state of public feeling then, when the struggle between the State's Rights and the Union parties in the States was at its height, the mourning over the State was universal and deep.

General Sumter left but one child, Thomas Sumter, Jr., who was born in 1768. He entered the diplomatic service first as Secretary of Legation to France, appointed by President Jefferson, and afterwards served as United States Minister to Portugal. He married Mdle. Natalie de Delage, and left several children at his death, in 1840.

I have now finished the task that I allotted to myself. I am conscious, deeply conscious, that my performance has been totally inadequate to the subject, but if I have been able to rescue from oblivion any thing or act that deserves to be remembered concerning one to whom justice has been so tardy in her memorials, or if I have been able to add one more laurel to the chaplet on the brow of one who so worthily won them, then I shall feel that my effort has not been in vain.

LETTER FROM CAPT. RICHMOND P. HOBSON.

John J. Dargan, Esq., Statesburg, S. C.

Dear Sir: I regret exceedingly that an imperative engagement in the West prevents my accepting your invitation. Allow me, however, to congratulate you upon the completion of the monument to the great patriot, and upon the splendid beginning that your school has made.

It is to such education as your school provides that the South must look, in large measure, to her future prosperity and greatness.

My hearty good wishes are with you, and may God speed you in the good work. Yours very truly, R. P. HOBSON.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE SUMTER MEMORIAL EXERCISES AT STATEBURG.

To complete the record of the recent patriotic event at Statesburg, Sumter County, the following resolutions and messages of sympathy and congratulations are printed in the *News and Courier*.

These resolutions were offered by Richard D. Lee, Esq., president of the Bar Association of Sumter, and unanimously and enthusiastically adopted:

Resolved 1. That the grateful acknowledgments of this vast assemblage of South Carolinians are due and are hereby tendered to His Excellency, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, for the patriotic and kindly interest, both personal and official, manifested by him in the memorial cermonies of this occasion.

That in thus joining with us in commemorating the valor and services of that great Revolutionary hero, Gen. Thomas Sumter, which services in so large a measure rendered possible the achievement of American independence and the establishment of this grand Republic, the President has not only honored himself, but has likewise done infinite credit to the highest and most patriotic sentiments of the great American people over whom he has been called to preside.

That in the autograph letter written by the President and read before this assemblage of South Carolinians, breathing as it does the loftiest and purest spirit of patriotism and love of country, without regard to sections; in detailing a battalion of United States troops, the very flower of the army, accompanied by one of its most splendid military bands, to aid in the ceremonies, the whole commanded by officers whose soldierly and gentlemanly conduct, as well as that of the men themselves, has excited the admiration of us all; and in otherwise displaying his interest in an occasion appealing so peculiarly to the patriotic and personal pride and self-respect of the citizens of the Palmetto State, the President has manifested in a striking and signal manner that he is in fact, what he should be, the President of the whole American people.

That this exhibition, through our Chief Magistrate, of the national interest entertained by the great body of the American people in the local traditions,

patriotic pride and domestic concerns of the State of South Carolina, has gone far toward renewing and strengthening our love and allegiance to an indissoluble Union of indestructible States.

Resolved 2. That we desire to place upon record the evidence of our appreciation of the course of His Excellency, Martin F. Ansel, Governor of the State of South Carolina, who, laying aside for the moment the exacting duties of the office of Chief Magistrate of this State, has honored this occasion with his presence, and has delivered to his fellow citizens an address replete with sentiments of State pride and patriotic devotion to our proud old Commonwealth.

That in his recent election as Governor of the State the people had an abiding faith that he would always be ready to respond to every call to the performance of patriotic duty, and that his coming amongst us today to join in the ceremonies of this memorable occasion has justified in the highest degree the confidence thus reposed in him by the citizens of Sumter County.

Resolved 3. That the State of South Carolina is to be congratulated upon the happy fruition of the thought of the chairman of its General Sumter Monument Commission, in having with us today a distinguished citizen of the old Commonwealth of Virginia.

This particular section of South Carolina, historically known as "The High Hills of Santee," having been first settled by the English-Virginians nearly two centuries ago, who gallantly aided here in battling to a successful conclusion the War for American Independence, and whose sturdy descendants have contributed to make up in large measure a splendid and patriotic citizenship, it was particularly appropriate that this historic occasion should be graced by the presence of a representative Virginian.

That we are most fortunate in having with us the Hon. A. J. Montague, lately Governor of the State of Virginia, whose able, eloquent and patriotic address has not only largely contributed to the success of the occasion, but has gone far to revive and cement the strong ties of blood and of suffering which have united the inhabitants of these two glorious Commonwealths, which ties, originally formed upon the field of battle in the Revolutionary War, were afterwards renewed and still further cemented upon the tragic fields of a later and more unhappy struggle.

Resolved 4. That the thanks of this assemblage of South Carolinians are eminently due, and are hereby tendered, to the Hon. Henry A. Middleton Smith, of Charleston, himself a worthy and brilliant descendant of an illustrious family, who so largely contributed to the achievement of American independence, for his able, scholarly and invaluable historical oration this day delivered.

That the patriotic lessons taught by his address will serve to emulate succeeding generations to a love of country, a devotion to duty and a determination at all times to be free, and will prove an inspiration to American youth everywhere to follow the lofty ideals of patriotic duty which characterized the conduct of their illustrious ancestors in the War of the Revolution.

Resolved 5. That the chairman of the General Sumter Monument Commission, Col. J. J. Dargan, to whose patriotic conception, so brilliantly executed, the success of this memorable occasion is due, be requested to convey these resolutions to the above-named gentlemen; that he also be requested to have the letter of President Roosevelt, the letter of Capt. Richmond Pearson

Hobson, the telegram of Mr. George Foster Peabody (which came too late to be read, but was ordered published by the Committee on Publication), the address of Governor Ansel, the address of ex-Governor Montague, the oration of the Hon. H. A. M. Smith, and an official report of the exercises of this occasion, bound in permanent and enduring form, and that a copy thereof be deposited in the library of the General Sumter Memorial Academy, and that another copy thereof be deposited amongst the archives of the State of South Carolina, in the State Library at Columbia, S. C.

FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

The Daughters of the American Revolution of South Carolina send greetings upon this auspicious occasion, and heartily congratulate the Commission upon the successful culmination of their duty in the unveiling today of the memorial to our great partisan leader, Gen. Thomas Sumter.

VIRGINA MASON BRATTON,
State Regent Daughters of the American Revolution of South Carolina.

FROM GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY.

Fort William Henry Hotel,
Lake George, N. Y., August 14, 1907.

Hon. John J. Dargan, Sumter, S. C.

Am most sorry not to be present on so notable an occasion. I send greetings to all, and especially to those so nobly adding to the fame of South Carolina by doing the best of service in moving forward the work of education, and particularly the rural school—the hope of the nation—should be taught there to think true, by the best of teachers in an eight-months school. God speed your efforts! School taxes best investment, if ample for thorough work.

GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY.

THE MONUMENT TO SUMTER.

(Editorial from *News and Courier*, August 15, 1907)

A monument to Thomas Sumter—the "Gamecock" of the Revolution, patriot, soldier, statesman, citizen—was unveiled yesterday at Statesburg, Sumter County. It was erected by the State of South Carolina to one of the most illustrious of her sons, and one of the most neglected.

For sixty-five years his dust has mingled with the soil of the State which he loved with all his heart and which he served in war and in peace with a singleness of devotion never surpassed. The memorial stone will add nothing to his fame, that is imperishable; but it will save South Carolina from the continuing reproach of

ingratitude and will serve to remind the generations yet to be that here lived and died one of the immortals. To Col. John J. Dargan, a carfeul student and teacher of the history of his State, is due the largest meed of praise for arousing the public to a proper sense of its duty to the memory of Sumter. He had most willing and intelligent co-operation, and the people of the State will heartily congratulate him and his fellow-workers upon the successful accomplishment of their worthy purpose.

The chief feature of the ceremonies at Statesburg yesterday was the oration of H. A. M. Smith, Esq., of Charleston, in which he reviewed the life and public service of Sumter. The full text of the oration is printed in *The News and Courier* today. It is the most exhaustive and appreciative study of this great man that has ever been made, and possesses the largest historical and literary value. Nothing better or more satisfactory in a historical way has been done in South Carolina,—nothing that will appeal more strongly to the patriotic sense of the State. Mr. Smith had a very difficult and trying task. His theme was inspiring, but in the absence of any history of Sumter he was compelled to build up the thrilling story which he told yesterday out of original material by patient research. He did his part with distinguished ability and has made an invaluable contribution to the history of his State.

IN HONOR OF GENERAL SUMTER.

(Editorial from *The State*, August 14, 1907)

There will be unveiled at Statesburg today a monument in honor of one of the most useful and brilliant men produced by this country in its hour of greatest peril and greatest need—Gen. Thomas Sumter.

It has been sung by a woman poet, who deplored that the "long sacrifice of woman's days" goes by unheeded, that "statesmen and warriors have their meed of praise." But it is not always so. We honor according to our prejudices, often according to our idle whims. Men of far less worth, far less achievement, have long received the plaudits of the American people, have had monuments erected to them, have had pages of history inscribed with their praise, while General Sumter has had scant honor paid to his great character and his substantial service to his State and his country. This is largely due, of course, to two very unpleasant facts: The South does not write history, and it does not devote much time to honoring the memories of its great men.

But there stands the ugly record against us. Or, at least it stood

until yesterady. Today it is expunged from the register of time. Today we are honoring, in some worthy way, in a way that would warm the stout heart of the gallant old partisan himself, the "Gamecock" and chanticleer of the Revolution. The reproach passes from us.

It is admitted, even by the historian Bancroft, that the work accomplished by the Revolutionists of South Carolina made possible the defeat of the British invaders and the achievement of independence. It has been demonstrated by our own historian, McCrady, that this State fought more battles and made more sacrifices for the cause of the people than any other State. The record is a proud one. It stands unapproached, unchallenged, unassailable.

In the making of that resplendent record not one of our leaders accomplished more than Gen. Thomas Sumter. As we have said, he has not fared well in history. That other brilliant and dashing partisan leader, Francis Marion, has claimed a larger share of the attention of poets and novelists. There was a little more of the glamor of romance about Marion; but there was no more of brilliancy and daring and spirit about him in actual life than about the hard-fighting and tireless "Gamecock." There is little doubt that the British, from Cornwallis and Tarleton down to the humblest trooper, feared Sumter more than they feared any other of their adversaries. Cornwallis declared that he had been their "greatest plague in the country." He met the dashing Tarleton, the most brilliant cavalry leader in the service of England, and divided honors with him, losing to him once and defeating him once, while another encounter was a drawn battle. His record of services to the State is, indeed, the most brilliant and most enduring, perhaps, of all those who fought so gallantly and with final success against overwhelming odds.

The monument that is unveiled today is due, in its inception, to the patriotism of Col. John J. Dargan, who has long taken the deepest interest in preserving all the memorials and records of our State history, and in rightly honoring the State's great and worthy men. It is an achievement that honors him and honors the people of the State who quickly and liberally responded to his suggestion. No longer will it be possible to reflect that South Carolina failed to give due honor to one of the most brilliant and successful of the patriot leaders that rescued her from British tyranny and gave her independence and an honorable station among the States and before the world.

ADDRESS OF MISS MARY T. NANCE, AT THE EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

The Independence of Rural School Work in South Carolina.

Mr. President and Friends: It is a rural school that has today paid such beautiful tributes to our hero of Revolutionary fame, Gen. Thomas Sumter, and it was mainly through the efforts of the noble teachers of this school, Colonel Dargan and his daughters, that this occasion of solemnity and reverence has been made possible. General Sumter, a hero of whom every American citizen is proud, has fought a good fight and has gone to his eternal reward, and today we are proud of the privilege that is accorded us in being able to take part in the exercises that do honor to the memory of this great man.

To erect monuments to our noble dead and to cover their resting places with flowers is a beautiful custom, but when we are doing this we should not lose sight of what we owe to our *living* heroes. We should honor men who, like Colonel Dargan, have waged war against ignorance, against prejudice and against criticism, and who have builded better than they knew. We should not wait until these men have passed away to honor and revere them, but today let every man and woman here who is interested in the advancement of educational interests in our State rise up and call them blessed.

The subject assigned me for today is one of considerable magnitude and one with which I feel unable to cope in such a short period of time. However, I feel sure that every one here readily recognizes the fact that good schools for all the people is no longer a question of philanthropy or expediency; with us in South Carolina and in the *entire South* it is a matter of life and death.

For many years the elementary school has been a distinctively American institution, whose influence in maintaining the democratic spirit of our people, in welding together the diverse elements of our native and foreign-born population, in raising the general level of intelligence to a comparatively high plane, has been too great to be measured. While this is true, there has never yet been a time when there were schoolhouses enough in this country to accommodate all the children of school age; and there are yet some who are deprived of the opportunity to acquire even the simplest rudiments of an education.

It has been the tendency of our educational leaders, until recently, to give their undivided time to developing a vast public school system for the cities, and therefore the educational progress in rural communities has been along very narrow lines. Into the courses of study in the city schools have been introduced special courses in drawing, manual training, music, physical culture and domestic science. These schools have had libraries, good equipment, well-kept grounds and all of the things that stand for refinement and culture, and the efforts of our educators have made it possible for them to secure all these things. I will ask this question: How about the rural schools? Each of you here who has studied the question will admit that until recent years very little effort has been made in South Carolina to improve the courses of study, to improve and beautify the buildings, to add libraries and to make the schools of the rural disricts as attractive as those of the towns or cities; however, in the last three or four years an educational wave, for the improvement of rural schools, has swept over our State, and at present our educators are working along certain lines, viz.: consolidation, improvement of buildings and grounds, better equipment, interior decoration, libraries, better teachers, longer terms, local taxation, and, last, but by no means least, the making of the schools more thoroughly the centers for the intellectual life of the community by the co-operation of the farmer and his family with the teacher.

Years ago, educational leaders thought it necessary to put a schoolhouse on every man's plantation; but in recent years light along this line has dawned, and now the cry of our deepest thinkers is to consolidate the small schools, and, instead of having a schoolhouse in every valley and on every hilltop, they are attempting to have several weak schools joined into one and have free transportation of pupils. This is at present the most important movement affecting the rural schools of our State. There are many strong arguments in favor of consolidation and a few weak ones against it, the chief one of which is that it removes an ancient landmark and is a decided innovation. This is, I regret to say, an objection of great weight with a considerable class of patrons of rural schools who choose to live, move and die as did their ancestors. It will take time, patience and tact to overcome these objections, but the more progressive people of the community must go forward in spite of such narrow objections. There are a dozen arguments in favor of the consolidation to one against it. I can not do better here than to quote from our State Superintendent of Education.

Superintendent O. B. Martin says: "The strongest argument I have heard in favor of consolidation is that wherever it is tried the people like it and usually become its best friends and supporters when it is put into operation."

Here are some of the advantages of consolidation: (a) better houses, (b) better equipment, (c) better teaching, (d) better supervision, (e) better attendance, (f) less cost, (g) longer terms. I would like to enlarge on each of these advantages, but as time will not permit I will discuss only one, viz., *better teaching*. Take, for example, a neighborhood where three schools may be brought together into one. These three are all ungraded and, in a large measure, unclassified schools, having one teacher for each school. Each teacher has between thirty and forty recitations each day. These recitations can not exceed an average period of, say eight or ten minutes. Work of this kind is not teaching. It amounts to almost nothing in the way of development. Suppose, for example, that the subject of geography is up, and that geography classes in these three schools have an average of three pupils each. We have three teachers conducting three hasty recitations with an aggregate of nine pupils. If these three schools were consolidated there would be *one* teacher of geography with a class of nine pupils, all under the wholesome stimulus of numbers, conducting a recitation for thirty minutes or more. Now, extend the process so as to embrace all the subjects taught in the schools, and see what a saving of energy and what a multiplication of results. Instead of three ungraded, unclassified and inefficient schools, we have one graded school doing systematized, effective work. This is the greatest advantage of consolidation; and, if it had no other advantage, this alone would far outweigh every consideration that can be urged against it.

With consolidation and better organization of rural schools will come the opportunities for much fuller and richer courses of study. Agriculture can be taught in the country schools, as manual training is in the city schools. Children must be taught early in life to see what is about them. The teacher should point out beauty in the common things—the tree, the sky, the rock, the brook, the hillside and the meadow. If the child is taught to love the things about him he will take pleasure in aiding their development. Then manual labor will not be a drudgery. Agriculture must not be confused with the manual training as taught in the city schools.

Some one has said: "The motive for teaching agriculture in the rural schools may, however, to considerable extent, be the same as

that for manual training for city schools, viz., to bring the children into direct sympathetic relations with the industrial life of the community in which they live. Undoubtedly manual training in the city schools has an outlook toward the shop, factory and kitchen, and in the same way agriculture in the rural school should be directly related to the practical work of the farm." Just as the courses of study in the city schools have been improved and enriched by the introduction of manual training, so the teaching of agriculture in the rural schools, when once parents and teachers are convinced of its benefits, will be found to be both practicable and advantageous.

At the outset consolidation naturally encounters opposition, but when it is given a fair trial and its merits have been tested no one would consent to a return to the old way.

What educational value would it be to have a school in every man's yard if the school is worthless? In the General Sumter Memorial Academy we have a splendid type of a consolidated rural school.

On of the most urgent needs of our rural schools at present is better schoolhouses and well-kept grounds. A child's environment should always be made tasteful and attractive. We should endeavor to get the children into the schools, and when we have succeeded in getting them there we should make home schools for them; for if a boy's home is clean, orderly, attractive, and his school grounds and schoolhouse are well kept, he is growing up in an atmosphere that naturally makes for good when he is a man. The tastes and controlling ideals of a man are often the results of his surroundings at school. On the other hand, if his school grounds are unattractive, illy kept and repulsive, he is not only growing up in a bad atmosphere, but the schoolhouse becomes hostile to all good home surroundings and influences.

A schoolhouse of good architectural proportions and well-kept surroundings can not fail to serve as a stimulus to both teacher and pupil. Beauty in an incentive to order. "If we see a house that is attractive," says President Draper, "with trees about and some green sod and flower beds, we shall be likely to find that things are about as they should be inside. If the building looks ugly and the grounds unkept, we shall be likely to find that the schoolhouse is dirty and unhealthful. We shall also be likely to find that the teacher is lazy, the pupils listless and the work of little account."

Ruskin has said:

"Scatter diligently in susceptible minds,
The germs of the good and the beautiful;
They will develop there to trees, bud, bloom,
And bear the golden fruit of paradise."

It has been proven to be true that when the school-grounds and school-rooms are made attractive, the children take a delight in coming to school. We all agree with Mr. Joyner, I feel certain, that teachers who have the care of precious children for five or six hours each day should make "a home, not a hovel; a place of beauty, not a place of ugliness; a place of comfort, not a place of discomfort; a place of cleanliness, not a place of uncleanliness. About it the grass should grow green and the sun shine bright, the flowers bloom, and the birds sing, and the trees wave their long arms that the children, while listening to the lessons taught by men and books, may receive also from the potent, silent influence of proper environment, the sweet message of peace, and love, and culture, and beauty."

The time has come when we must conquer the absurd idea that four bare walls and a few straight-back benches constitute a place suitable for any child to spend five or six hours daily. Most of our rural schools need patent desks, good blackboards, maps, charts, window shades, reading tables and pictures. These things are within the reach of every community where a healthy educational sentiment can be created by a sympathetic co-operation of farm, home and school.

Prof. J. B. Carlisle has said: "Educational progress means religious good; it inculcates a love of truth that is not to be limited. The hope of the State is not in the big towns. The hope of the greatest future is dawning in the rural districts." A few years ago you seldom heard of a librar yin a rural school; today a library is within the reach of every school in South Carolina. Those schools that can not raise the $10.00 so as to avail themselves of State aid can secure the use of a traveling library, without cost, through the School Improvement Association. It is certainly an evidence of progress that good and wholesome reading matter is within the reach of every school in South Carolina.

President Eliot says that the school must teach, not only how to to read, but what to read, and it must develop a taste for wholesome reading. On one occasion Fenelon said, "If *all* the crowns of *all* the kingdoms of Europe were laid down at my feet in exchange for my books and my love of reading, I would spurn them all." To teach children to care for books, to cultivate in them a confirmed reading

habit, directed by cultivated taste, is one of the greatest things that a teacher may accomplish. This reading habit can only be cultivated by having the use of books.

Nearly one thousand libraries have been established in the rural schools of South Carolina during the past four years. This means at least 100,000 well-selected books in places where few opportunities existed before. There is nothing a teacher could place in her school that would make children care for books more than a reading table, to which should come papers and magazines. There should be a reading table in every rural school in South Carolina. Without reading table and libraries the rural school must fail in its most important function. May God speed the day when the library advantages of the country boy all over the South will be equal to those of the city boy.

Perhaps we have all heard of the maxim "As the teacher is, so is the school," so long that we are tired of it, but whether or not we consider this saying from a serious standpoint it is nevertheless one that is worthy of our most earnest consideration. Speaking from observation and experience, I believe that this is a self-evident truth.

For a long time our State has demanded that our doctors, lawyers and men of other professions be men of not only general education, but men of special training. But as yet that class among us who train at least seventy-five or eighty per cent. of our future citizens are, I am sorry to say, required to exhibit no more than a very elemetary general knowledge of a few subjects. I venture we are all of one mind that teachers should be trained for their work, but we can never get trained teachers for the rural districts until the salaries are increased. Suppose a teacher spends $1,000 for her college training, can she afford to go out into the country and teach forty or fifty children six or seven hours each day for the small pittance of $25 or $35, and be forced to spend nearly all of that for living expenses? The thirty-eighth annual report of the State Superintendent of Education says that there are 2,429 white schools in the rural districts of South Carolina; there are 104,484 children in these schools; the average length of the school term is 22.6 weeks, or four and one-half months; the annual average salary is $135. How is any woman to live twelve months on $135?

These facts, I hope, will stir our souls and consciences to such an extent that we will not rest until the rural school teachers of South Carolina are paid compensations sufficient to justify them in buying books, subscribing to school journals, daily papers and magazines,

in attending summer schools and in traveling. The *New York Sun* stated, a few years ago, that the "Dog Catcher" of the City of Washington receives $1,500 a year salary. The average salary of grade teachers in the Washington City schools is only $500 a year.

It is stated in the report which was submitted at Birmingham some years ago by the Associated Superintendents of Public Instruction, that the average salary for teachers of the country is only $49 for men and $40 for women, and that in the South the average is $33.35 for men and $30.47 for women.

The average length of a public school term for the country was given in the report as 145 days, while in the Southern States it was only 99 days. The country at large is spending $20.29 for every pupil enrolled in the public schools, while the South is spending only $6.95. For every child of school age the country is spending $10.57, while in the South we are spending $4.05.

The census of 1905 shows that 24 per cent. of the white population lives in the Southern States and 64 per cent. of all the white illiterates over ten years of age live in these same Southern States.

These facts are not pleasant, but they are true, however, and we, as Southern people, must face these conditions with courage; we must look to our own, and take care of our own, and in order to do so our children must be fitted for the tasks of life. If we do not grasp the opportunity by fitting our boys and girls, we may become hewers of stone and drawers of water for those who will take up the work.

"In a government like ours the prime object is to make a good citizen, for every citizen is a sovereign." I believe the most important work of any nation is the educating of its masses—the development of a higher average citizenship. Until every child has had the chained power within him set free,—until every boy and girl has been made to know their capacity, developed by consecrated and efficient teachers,—that nation has not yet had the Christian civilization. If the nation spent less on the maintenance of its standing army and devoted more of its revenue to the training and paying of teachers for the rural districts, there would be another case of casting bread upon the waters.

If we are to train our children for the highest type of future citizenship, we must formulate some definite plans for the adequate payment and training of our country public school teachers and for the extension of our school terms.

Chancellor Kirkland, of Vanderbilt University, said, "A consolidated school, with a good library and a good house, is only dead

matter until it is given life by the personality of a *real* teacher." In Mr. O. J. Kern's *Among Country Schools* there is a teacher's creed, from Mr. Osgood Grover, which I will quote here:

"I believe in boys and girls, the men and women of the great tomorrow; that whatsoever the boy soweth the man shall reap. I believe in the curse of ignorance, in the efficacy of schools, in the dignity of teaching and in the joys of serving another. I believe in the wisdom as revealed in human lives, as well as in the pages of a printed book; in lessons taught, not so much by precept as by example; in ability to work with the hands, as well as to think with the head; in everything that makes life large and lovely. I believe in the beauty of the school-room, in the home, in daily life and out of doors. I believe in laughter, in love, in all ideals and distant hopes that lure us on. I believe that every hour of every day we receive a just reward for all we are and all we do. I believe in the present and its opportunities, in the future and its promises, and in the divine joy of living. Amen."

"A teacher believing and living such a creed in a country school," says Mr. Kern, "will be an inspirational force to country children. The country school needs more of wisdom in human lives. Too often the wisdom, as revealed in what men have said or done in the past, as recorded on the printed page, is considered the only educational material worth while. Such a teacher will teach by example the true dignity of 'work with the hands,' and banish the false idea that an education will somehow enable one to get a living without work.

"A teacher living this creed will teach her children to see and appreciate the wondrous beauty of country life—the country road, the cluster of oak trees, the clover field, the trailing wild grapevine, the wild flowers, the wild crab tree and the babbling brook. She will help to spiritualize country thought and life, for she believes in beauty in the school-room, in the home, in daily life and out of doors. Such a teacher can not be content with merely drawing her salary while the schoolhouse and grounds remain cheerless and desolate. In some way the forces of the district will be organized for better things. The parents will be reached through the children, for the teacher believes 'in all ideals and distant hopes that lure us on.' Her salary is what? you ask. I do not know. She belongs to that small class of public servants who earn a great deal more than they receive. It may be that in lives transformed by her influence is a compensation greater than gold. At any rate, in 'the joy of

serving another' there comes the hourly 'reward for all we are and all we do.' If every country school teacher in the United States could only grasp the true significance of present conditions and future possibilities of the country school, could have faith in the inspirational power of a life illumined with 'the divine joy of living'—in short, if every country school teacher would actually live the above creed for five years the nation would witness the greatest change ever wrought in the history of the American public schools."

Some of the needs of our rural schools are consolidation, better houses and grounds, better equipment, interior decoration, libraries, longer terms and trained teachers. We can not have good schools without these things, and we can not have these things without more money, and we can not get more money without more taxes.

When we talk about higher taxes for public schools many people claim we are too poor for more taxation. Please listen carefully for a moment. According to an American grocer, in 1905 the annual drink bill of the United States, including wine, beer, liquor and coffee, was $1,450,000,000; annual tobacco bill, $750,000,000; total $2,200,000,000. Annual expenditure for public schools in the United States, $275,000,000.

Since the popluation in the South is one-fourth the population of the United States, we are spending annually $550,000,000 for liquor, wine, beer and coffee, and only $25,000,000 annually for our public schools; so we are spending twenty-two times as much annually for the things that wreck our homes as we are for the things that would make our homes and bless our nation.

If a community levies a tax on its own property, to be expended on its own school, it has done a good thing in many respects for the community; for the teachers will spend most of their salaries in the community, and local mechanics will spend at home what is paid them for the erection of buildings. However, if this were not true, the increased capacity of the children for future usefulness should be sufficient compensation for the extra tax that has been imposed

In 1903 about 250 districts in South Carolina levied a local tax; now the number approaches 500, which is nearly one-third of the districts in the State. This shows progress, but with this we are not satisfied. The cost of education is recognized as being one of the highest claims upon the people of the State. All other reforms combined can not regenerate a people who are steeped in ignorance. Education becomes an imperative necessity and one of the strongest that can rest upon a people. The counties that have levied taxes

find that the returns are ten and a hundred fold, and there is no reason why the whole State should not be placed on an equality in this respect.

I think that the ilustration that I am going to give will show clearly to every one present that the improvement of rural schools, and the educating of the masses in South Carolina, will have the power to produce great wealth for our State, for we are truly an agricultural State.

Germany educates its masses. Russia does not. Today Germany stands out as a great nation, with wonderful material power and possibilities. Only eight per cent. of Russia's popluation of 130,000,000 can read and write, and, as a consequence, an acre of land in Russia produces only one-third of what it produces in Germany.

This brings us to the unquestionable conclusion that we must educate our masses if we have to use taxation as a means for doing it. Hon. Charles B. Aycock, of North Carolina, has said, "The taxation that goes for the upbuilding of the public schools is the very freedom and liberty of the people."

Briefly, I will touch one more point, and that is the making of the schools more thoroughly the centers for the intellectual and social life of the community by the co-operation of the farmer and his family with the teacher. What we need to do is to create a sentiment for better conditions in the rural schools, and then we will get the co-operation and support of every one, whether he be college-bred or whether he can not read or write his name, whether he be a man of leisure or a laboring man. When leisure and opportunity meet, there also is obligation. Of man or woman to whom much is given, much shall be required. Not men alone brought gifts to the Tabernacle, but women came also, "such as were wise-hearted," says Holy Writ, bringing of their abundance and of their poverty to adorn the visible dwelling-place of Israel's God, who had been both alike, the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day.

"We owe it to God, to our country, to our State, to our County, to our families, to our friends, to the rising generation and to generations yet unborn, to do all in our power to promote and perfect this great agency for the betterment of mankind. You can do something toward this end. I can do something. Let us arise and be about it."

The best things are ahead of us, not behind us. The movement of humanity under the head of an all-wise, all-mighty, all-gracious God, is forward and not backward, so let us

"Do noble things, not dream them all day long,
And thus make life, death and the vast forever,
One grand, sweet song."

And finally let me say that in South Carolina we are appreciating more and more the truth as expressed by Horace Mann: "No richness of climate, no spontaneous productiveness of soil, no store of gold or of diamonds garnered into the treasure chambers of the earth can confer even worldly prosperity upon an uneducated nation. The ignorant pearl divers do not wear the pearls they win."

In the schoolhouse lives the ultimate hope of the nation, and work well done here bears a richer fruitage in a more enlightened citizenship and a fuller manhood than can be looked for in any other field of endeavor.

ADDRESS OF PROF. E. S. DREHER, AT THE EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

"SHALL WE EDUCATE AGAINST CRIME?"

On an occasion of this kind, where so many splendid things have been so eloquently spoken by distinguished men of this and other States, the temptation to make an elaborate speech is very great; but, fortunately for you, my friends, I shall not yield to the temptation. It is my purpose simply to direct your attention to three central thoughts, briefly told, on some phases of instruction needed in our schools and colleges, but now seldom mentioned within the walls of a schoolroom.

From the standpoint of the State and society, education that does not make good citizens is a failure. Intellectual culture and industrial training add power, influence and wealth to a community, but in themselves they do not necessarily make good citizens, as it is a well-established fact that some of our highly educated, and many of our industrially trained men and women are undesirable citizens. Their minds and hands have been carefully educated, but they are sadly lacking in those finer and nobler traits of character that can come only from an educated heart. Having had but little religious training, having no regard for the rights of others and no respect for law and order, they are irreligious, selfish and lawless.

The tendency in this direction is so pronounced and so general as to cause careful thinkers to view with increasing alarm the restlessness and disorder growing out of present disturbed and unsettled conditions. That a remedy is needed as a corrective of this tendency is apparent to all, but what the remedy shall be has not yet been determined, nor will it be determined here today. Still, I submit the following proposition for the thoughtful consideration of those who are interested in this great problem:

Definite and thorough instruction in our schools and colleges in the fundamental principles of religion, on the difference between mine and thine and on the necessity for law and order will, in the next half century, so revolutionize our moral, spiritual, social and industrial life as to make present conditions not only intolerable, but impossible.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Human nature is so constituted that worship of some kind is essential to a rational existence. So true is this that, not knowing

God, two-thirds of the human race worship false gods of their own creation. The other third worship what they believe to be the only true God, but, alas! as a whole, be it said to our shame, with a devotion less sincere and devout than that accorded by the children of darkness to their idols of wood, stone and bronze. With us money and the lust for gold are being more and more enthroned in our hearts and lives, while the God of our fathers is being dethroned and dishonored. We are so money-mad that the figure of the dollar-mark is larger than the figure of the cross; wealth, no matter how obtained, often has a greater power than character, however noble and sublime.

In some pagan countries, emperor-worship and filial piety are the badges of honorable citizenship; those who possess these virtues are counted among the best in the land, though in other respects they are notoriously wicked and immoral. In our own country, there is but little difference; those who are wealthy are respected and honored regardless of their moral character, while poor but honest and honorable men are without influence in the community, the State and the nation.

It is generally admitted that a very large majority of the children of our country are growing up ignorant of the finer traditions of the past, ignorant of the lives of those who have suffered and endured for righteousness' sake, ignorant of the Holy Scriptures and of the ways of God to man. In many instances, they receive no religious instruction in their homes, none in the churches, from which they are absent, and none in the public schools, where such instruction is not permitted. In some schools the scriptures may not even be read because the courts have decreed that the Bible is a sectarian book. In the matter of religious sects and denominations, it would seem that we are sensitive beyond belief; so sensitive, in fact, as to believe that some unsuspecting school teachers are so eager and anxious to proselyte our children that we don't want them even to mention the name of God in their presence. Away with so narrow-minded a prejudice; away with so unreasonable a sensitiveness!

We need the Bible in our schools, and we need its influence in our national life to correct the immoral, lawless and money-worshiping tendencies of the time. That instruction in the Bible will do this, reference need only be made to the law-abiding spirit of those countries in which religious instruction, based on the Bible, is regularly and systematically taught in the public schools.

If all these things are true, and experience and common sense prove that they are, is it fair, reasonable or just to present or future generations to deny our children instruction in a book that has done more for humanity and the world than all other books combined? Our intelligence answers no, but our prejudice answers yes. Hitherto our prejudice has triumphed over our intelligence in these matters; shall it continue to do so in the future? No, not if we are wise.

MINE AND THINE.

Some years ago, in discussing with a friend the reason for so many bank defalcations recorded in the papers from day to day, he startled me by saying that he believed some of them were due to the modern method of teaching subtraction in our public schools. "This," said he, "is the explanation: When we were taught subtraction by the old method, we borrowed one from the minuend and added one to the subtrahend when the figure in the top line was less than the one in the bottom line. You see we *always* paid back what we borrowed, but by this new method we keep on borrowing and never pay back, and this is the very same method by which employees rob their employers."

This seems to be a rather fantastic idea, but it is unique in its originality. According to it, a return to the old method of teaching subtraction in the schools will reduce the number of defalcations by trusted employees. This is doubtful, but there is a plan by which conditions may be improved, not only in this respect, but also in all business and commercial transactions; it is to teach to the youth of the country, in its widest meaning, the difference between mine and thine, in regard to both property rights and individual thought and action.

The right to acquire property and accumulate wealth is as old as the history of man; that which I acquire legitimately is as sacredly mine as that which you acquire legitimately is sacredly yours, but that which I acquire by fraud and robbery is no more mine morally and legally than that which you acquire by the same means is yours. Yet you want and covet mine, and I want and covet yours; mine and thine are eternally at war, not only figuratively, but literally, until the whole world is involved in an armed peace or in actual warfare to protect what it already has, or to acquire by force what belongs to others. And so equity and right have not always been victorious, but might has made right, and mine has become thine because you are stronger than I am, either in your own strength or in a combination of forces with which I am unable to contend. I,

though right, lose through weakness; you, though wrong, win by might. Thus the conflict wages and will wage until we obey the commands: "Thou shalt not covet," and "Thou shalt not steal."

Numerous violations of the principle involved in mine and thine are every day disclosed in the business world. Open robbery, theft and graft are appropriating to others that which is mine; questionable and dishonest business methods are amassing fortunes for some by robbing others; conflicts between labor and capital are of common and frequent occurrence; distrust and discord are prevalent throughout the country; and so little regard have we for what is thine, for the rights of others, that a gloomy, pessimistic outlook for the future is not unjustifiable, in view of the present conditions.

Now, no one is so credulous as to believe for a moment that these evils can be wholly removed from business and commercial transactions by any process whatsoever; they can not so long as human nature remains unchanged; but if our children are carefully instructed in the well-established principles of ownership, in the laws pertaining to personal and property rights, not omitting the punishments prescribed for violations of the same, in regard to the sin of stealing and the virtue of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you, in two or three decades marked and gratifying improvements will follow.

An extremely simple political economy, with variations and additions adapted to the purpose in view, could easily embrace all the information necessary to carry out the suggestions here made on this vital and important topic.

NECESSITY FOR LAW AND ORDER.

Without law and order civilized society can not exist; wise laws, properly respected and enforced, are the bulwarks of civilization. When the law becomes inoperative, when constituted authority is powerless to enforce its mandates, the individual usurps authority anarchy prevails, lawlessness triumphs, violence reigns supreme and murder stalks abroad by day and by night until finally society is conquered, subdued and utterly destroyed.

As the government derives its power from the people by whom and for whom it exists, each individual, being a constituent part of the government, is partly responsible for its enforcement. When the government fails to perform its proper functions, the people and not it are to blame. In a peculiar sense is this true of a republican form of government, and for this reason an educated citizenship is necessary to the perpetuity of such a government. Hence its citizens

should receive the most liberal education possible. Schools and colleges should be established in large numbers in which the principles of government and the necessity for law and order should be taught, beginning with the common schools and continuing through the colleges.

In this country, in view of our wide-spread disregard for law and order and our appalling indifference to the value of human life, simple statistics in regard to the prevalence of crime and its causes, especially murder, should be compiled and also taught in our schools.

To illustrate: The population of South Carolina is approximately 1,500,000; last year the Attorney-General reported 303 homicides, which gives 20 for every 100,000 inhabitants and one every 29 hours. In 1904 there were 203, and in 1905 the number was 262.

In the State of Maine there is only one-half of a homicide to every 100,000 inhabitants; South Carolina's ratio would give that State 120 a year, instead of three, as is now the case.

The State of Massachusetts has only one-third of a homicide for every 100,000 inhabitants, or ten a year; South Carolina's ratio would give Massachusetts 600.

In Montana the average is 11 for every 100,000 of population, or 33 each year; South Carolina's ratio would give Montana 60.

Florida is in a worse condition than South Carolina, the number of homicides in that State being 23 in every 100,000 inhabitants. The actual number of homicides in Florida is 138; South Carolina's ratio would give Florida 120.

London, with a population of more than six millions, has on an average about 20 homicides each year, or one-third for every 100,000 of population. South Carolina's ratio would give London 1,200 annually. Again, the population of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia combined, is about the same as that of London, but if the people in these States were as law-abiding in respect to human life as they are in that city, there would be only 20 homicides in them, whereas the actual number is nearer 1,200.

Life is ten times safer in Japan than in our own country.

Tahiti, one of the Society Islands, with a population of 11,000, has one homicide every four years. South Carolina's ratio would give Tahiti more than two a year, and yet we are accustomed to think of that island as being only half-civilized.

If the truth must be told, when it comes to taking human life, we are the ones who are only half-civilized, but the saddest part of it is we don't seem to know it. If ever a campaign of education was

needed in South Carolina and other sections of the country, one is needed at this time against the prevalence of murder and other crimes now so common as to excite almost no comment. Practically all the daily papers of the State, and some of the weeklies, are laying these astounding and appalling facts before our people, but as they reach only a small minority of the population of the State, the results are meagre and unsatisfactory. It is clearly evident that something more definite is needed,—something that will reach most of our people in a few years' time. Human life, the most valuable asset of any State, is far too cheap in South Carolina. Your time or mine may come next; who knows?

A simple and, I believe, effective plan for improving conditions in this respect is this: Let the Legislature authorize the appointment by the Governor of a commission on comparative criminology, whose duty it shall be to compile statistics of crime, especially murder, from various cities, States, and countries, reduce them to their simplest and most interesting forms, publish them in pamphlets from time to time, distribute them by mail or otherwise throughout the State at the expense of the State; and further, that the teaching of these facts be made obligatory in all schools and colleges under State control.

With such facts as these thoroughly taught to the youth of the State and widely disseminated among the older people, it is impossible to believe that so many of our fellow-citizens would go around armed with a whiskey bottle in one hip-pocket and a revolver in the other, ready to shoot down a human being on the least provocation, or without any provocation whatsoever. No one can tell how far-reaching and how beneficent the results will be, if a plan like this should be tried in South Carolina.

These, then, my fellow-citizens, are the three chief thoughts that I bring to you today: Let us teach the Bible, the difference between mine and thine, and the necessity for law and order to the young people of our State. They are but poorly and briefly expressed, but they seem worthy of this great occasion. Should they receive any consideration at your hands, and should the three subjects mentioned ever become a part of the curriculum of our schools and colleges, should the benign influence of the three, taken together or separately, ever bless this cherished land of our birth, a new era of prosperity, good-cheer, and brotherly love will dawn upon the sons and daughters of South Carolina.

PEACE HYMN.

The following hymn was sung to the air of New Haven, at the conclusion of the educational meeting:

I

God bless our native land;
May Heaven's protecting Hand
  Still guard our shore.
May peace her power extend,
Foe be transformed to friend,
And all our rights depend
  On War no more.

II

May just and righteous laws
Uphold the public cause
  And bless our name.
Home of the brave and free,
Stronghold of Liberty,
We pray that hence on thee
  There be no stain.

III

And not this land alone,
But be Thy mercies known
  From shore to shore.
Lord make the Nations see
That men should brothers be
And form one family
  The wide world o'er.

FROM COL. SEBASTIAN SUMTER.

The Sumter Monument Commission.

Gentlemen: Learning that you are soon to make your report, as Commissioners of the Legislature of South Carolina to erect a monument to General Sumter, of your action in such capacity and of the unveiling exercises and ceremonies, I wish, on behalf of the Sumter family, of which I am the oldest member, to express to you our entire satisfaction with your work. You have pleased us in the selection of the material of which the monument is made, of the taste in its construction and inscriptions, and it seems to us all that even though you had had a limitless fund you could not have erected a more suitable memorial to mark the grave of General Sumter than you have done.

The unveiling ceremonies were conducted, from first to last, in the most successful and pleasing manner, and your uniform courtesy and consideration for the wishes of the family, even in the most minute matters, relating to the location of the monument and the conduct of the exercises, merits our grateful recognition, and I beg that you will accept this expression of our satisfaction and appreciation. Very respectfully yours, S. SUMTER.

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